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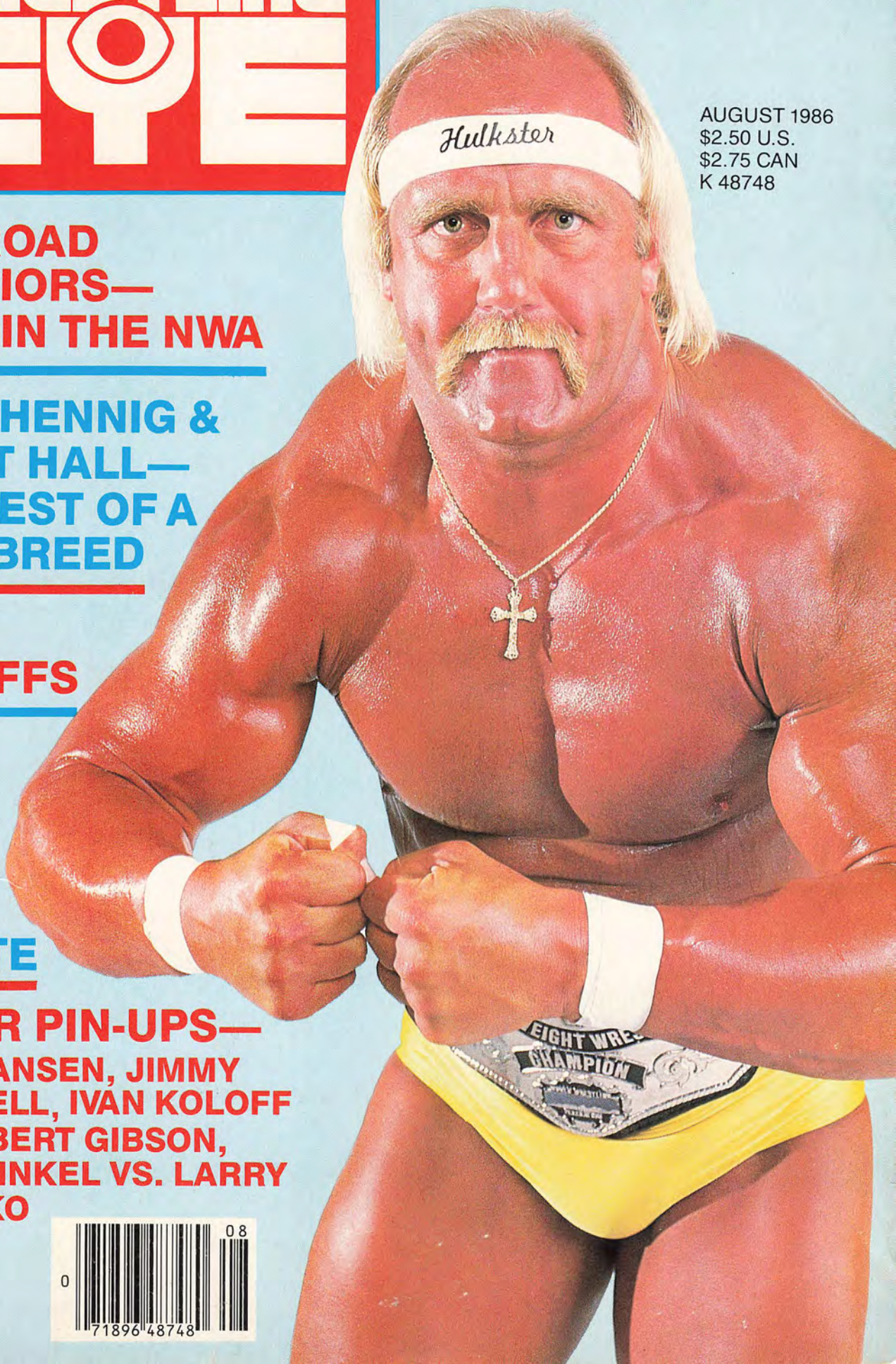

THE ROAD WARRIORS— BACK IN THE NWA

CURT HENNIG & SCOTT HALL— THE BEST OF A NEW BREED

THE KOLOFFS

NWA UPDATE

COLOR PIN-UPS— STAN HANSEN, JIMMY BRUNZELL, IVAN KOLOFF VS. ROBERT GIBSON, BOCKWINKEL VS. LARRY ZBYSZKO

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EDITORIAL

STANDING BY PRO WRESTLING

This time, WRESTLING EYE would like to address our editorial to the cable systems which have profited from pro wrestling. Did you know that wrestling was the first sporting broadcast to receive an Emmy? That was back in 1949, and yet it wasn't until 1985 that pro wrestling was aired on a network station (Saturday Night's Main Event—NBC—TV). In between those events, wrestling found a home on cable and local independent stations. It's popularity has insured the stations a steady stream of profit.

In general, TV has a reputation for putting money above all else. Right now, there's hardly a cable outfit without at least one wrestling program on its airwaves. We hope this continues. Wrestling and television have had a long and mutual friendship, which we hope has inspired loyalty. If miniature golf or dwarf-throwing becomes the next yuppie-craze, let's hope wrestling will still have a broadcast home.

By the way, when will HBO join the rest of the world and present wrestling in the style it does world-class boxing?

Mike

Mike Bellew
Editor

THE ROAD WARRIORS

BACK IN THE NWA!

By Mike O'Hara

Photos by Tony Kush

In under three years Animal and Hawk, known collectively as the Road Warriors, have set the wrestling world on it's ear. The barbaric twosome make Conan the Barbarian look vitamin deficient, and their ring actions are far from respectable, yet they are loved and cheered by 90% of the fans attending the live arena shows. Although they are now considered "good guys" (in the most bizzarre sense of the word), they captured the support of the fans even during times in the past when they were pitted against the pretty boys of wrestling such as the Fabulous Ones, Tommy Rich and Jerry Lawler, among many others.

They have held just about every major title in the business and have beaten every serious tag threat put before them, so what is left? What indeed! Obviously the money is no longer a major influence, since they have been courted several times in the past by Vince McMahon, Jr to enter the WWF rings, and the various promoters in the NWA and AWA had to counterbid in order to keep their

two biggest stars.

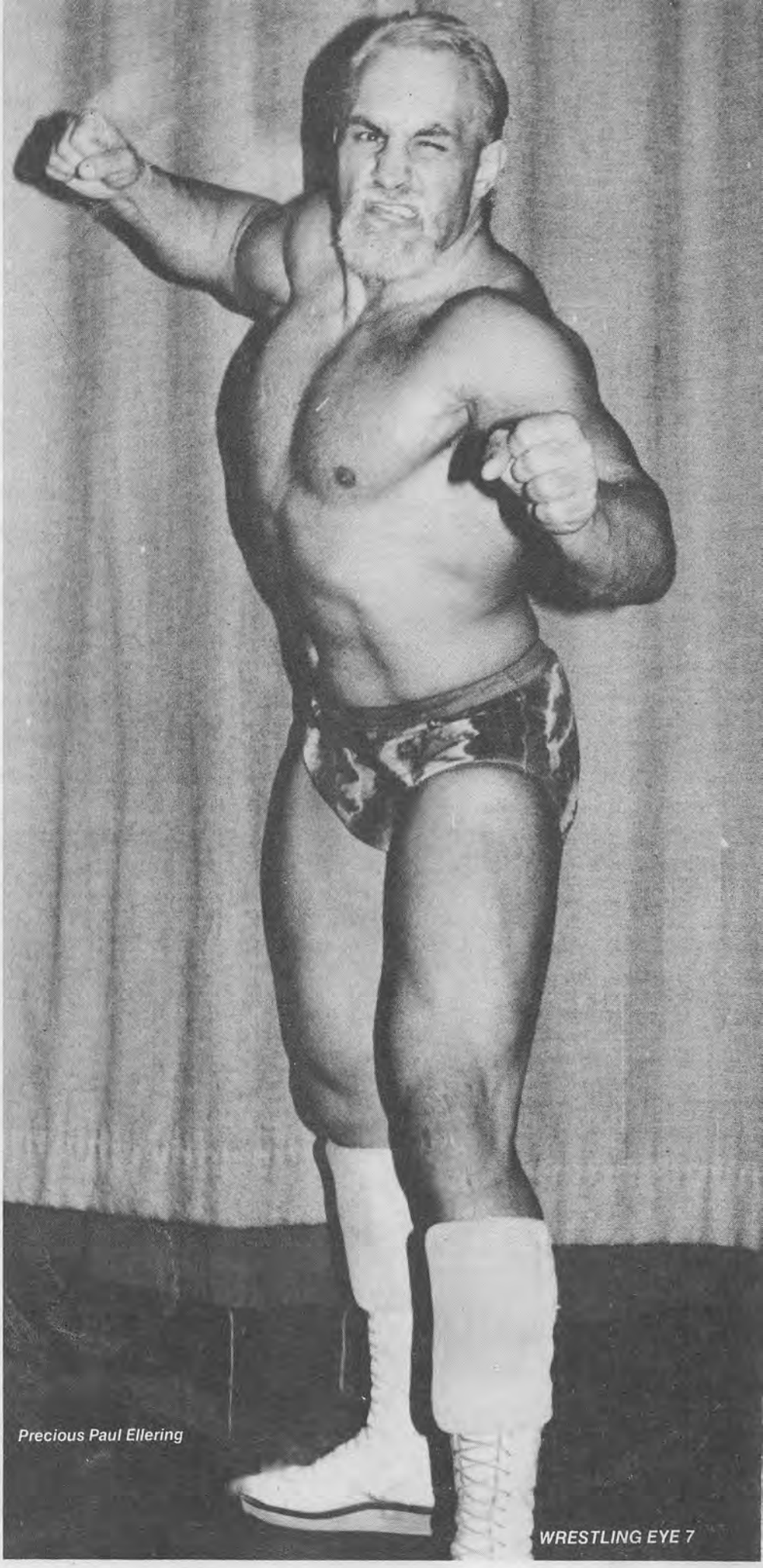
Much of the Warriors' success must be given to their mentor, "The Professor" Eddie Sharkey, a former wrestler and current AWA referee. This is no fluke team for Professor Ed. He is responsible for training and beginning the ring careers of Jesse "the Body" Ventura, Bob Backlund, the Terminators, John "the Barbarian" Nord, Krusher Khruschev, Nikita Koloff and countless others. With a crop of graduates like that, you know his nickname of "the Professor" is aptly applied.

To show how determined the Roadies were, they completed Ed's grueling eight-month training camp in a little over three months. "They never missed a class and even under great pain they were determined to complete each session," boasts the trainer of champions.

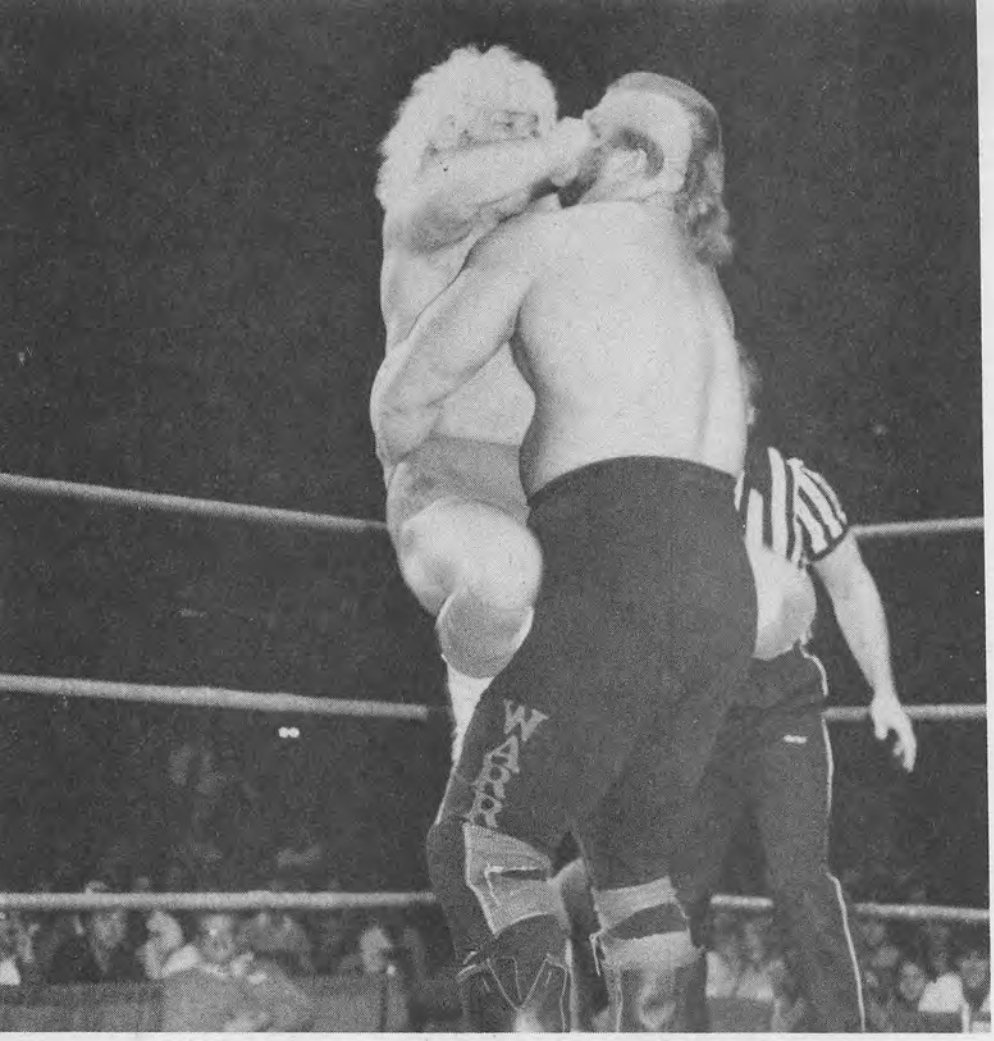
The Warriors were naturals right from the start. Within nine months they were crowned National Heavyweight Tag Team Champions for the Georgia-based affiliate of the NWA. Thanks to their appearances on WTBS, the Super-Station, their names became household words! Fans tuned in week in and week out, not to see if the Warriors could defeat their latest opponents, but to see how long it would take them to do it!

In all honesty, it would be very hard to proclaim the Road Warriors as the greatest tag team in the history of the sport, due mainly to the fact that the caliber of tag teams in the 80's is not what it once was. The only serious threat comes in the Russian trio of Krusher Kruschev, Ivan and Nikita Koloff. Most other teams are either too old, too inexperienced, too small or simply not good enough.

Smaller teams like the Midnight Express or the Rock & Roll Express, while extremely fast and technical, are just outweighed to the point where their moves are simply not effective on these big men. Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. do not have the teamwork, stamina or power to overcome the odds. Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine are sorely inept by comparison. The British Bulldogs combination of Davey Boy Smith and



Precious Paul Ellering



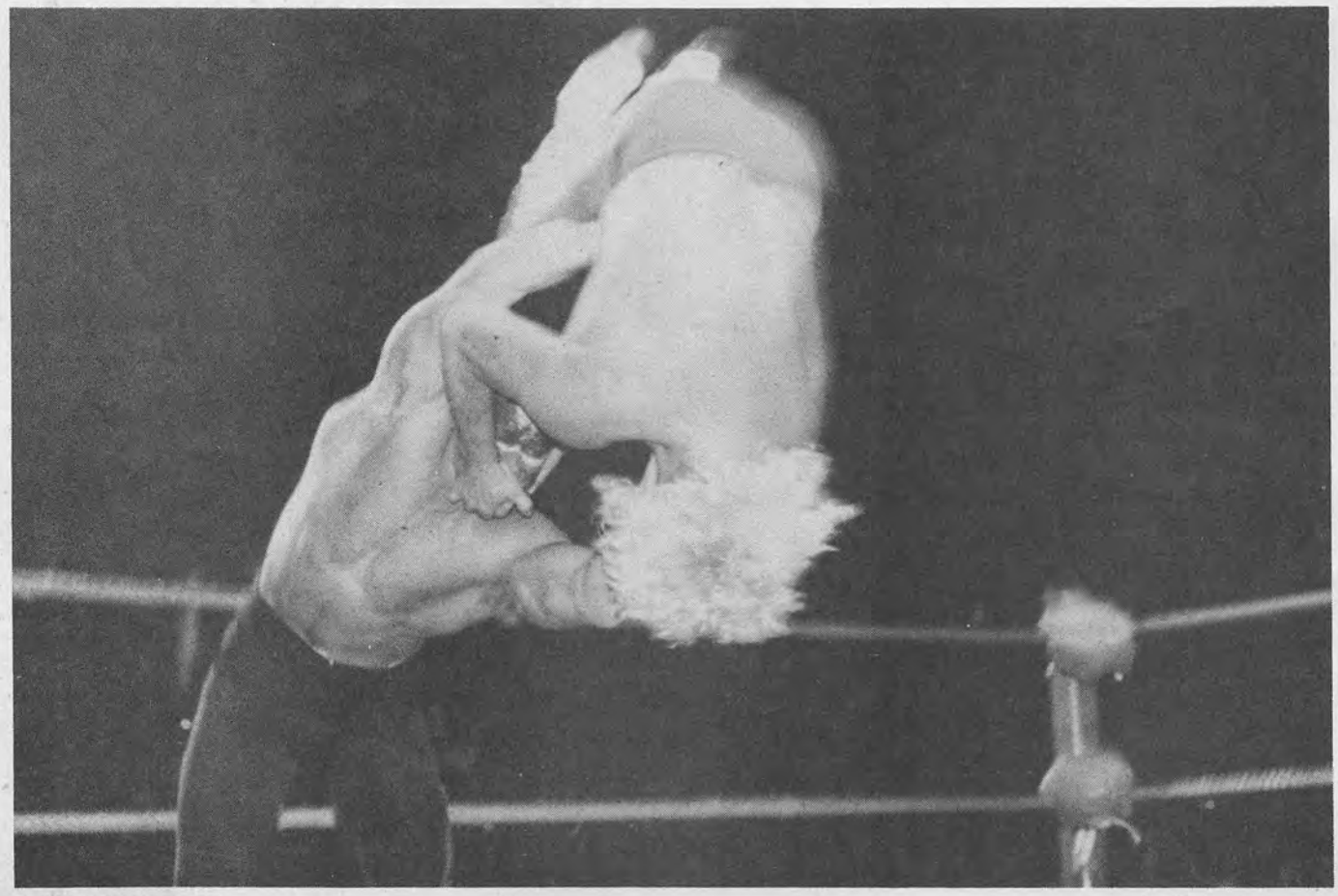
Hawk and Animal have had dramatic effect on NWA tag team action.

the Dynamite Kid would present interesting problems, and they could be a team to surprise the leather-clad muscle men. At any rate, a Warriors vs. Bulldogs confrontation would be something to see!

But what do the Warriors have to prove at this time? They've done it all. Can we expect Animal and Hawk to push onward and upward when there is really nothing left to prove? While money is a motivating force, it doesn't play a major role for either of them at this stage of the game.

So what is it that motivates them? In a recent article appearing in a Mid-West paper, the Warriors confessed that as kids they were mixed-up, not knowing what they wanted to do or how tough the world really was. They had to prove something to themselves. That they were good at something. They wanted to be good athletes and that wrestling gave them an opportunity to prove themselves.

How ironic to think that if the Road Warriors ever lose that feeling of insecurity, they might very well lose that all-important edge that has placed them above their peers!



Animal goes for the pin on Ivan Koloff.

Terry Gordy lands a feeble right on Hawk.

NWA UPDATE

By Tony Schivone

Who are the **Risky Business Boys**? That's the question **N.W.A. World Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair** and his cousin, **N.W.A. World Television Champion Arn Anderson**, were asking last week. The two world champions signed a contract to wrestle the "unknown" team on T.V.

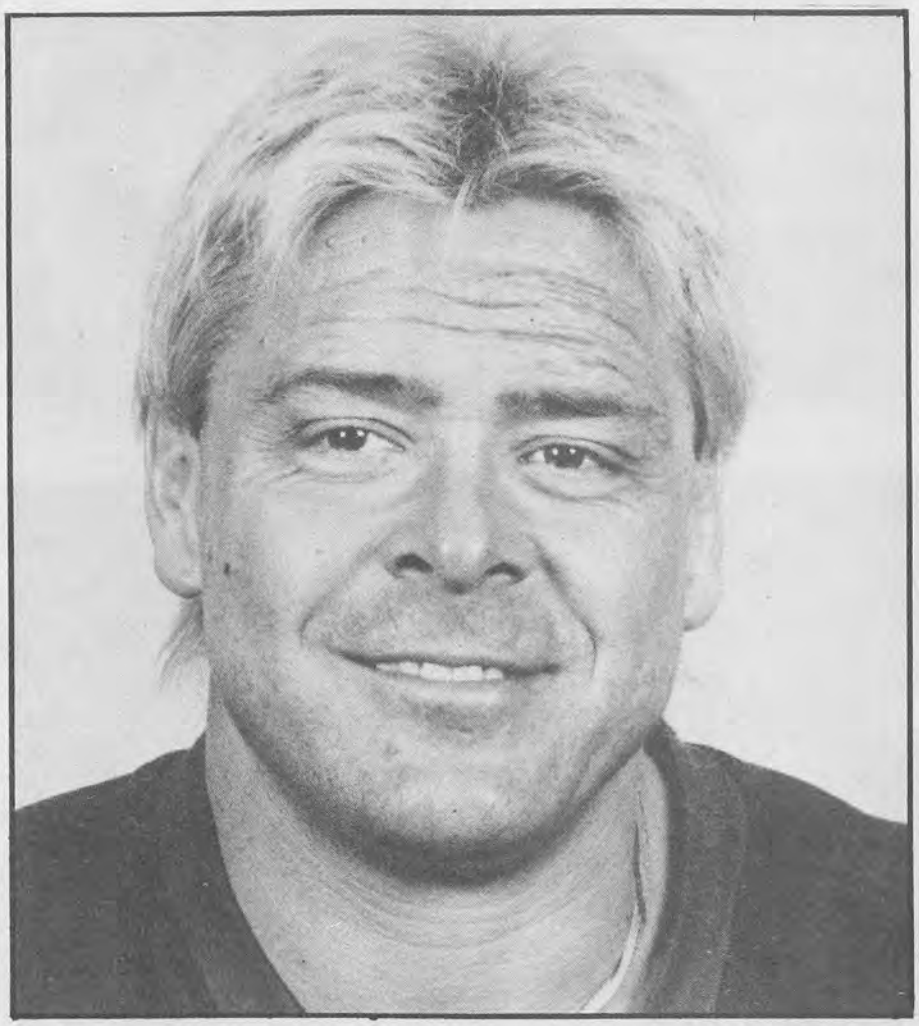
"It's a great way for me and Double-A to get warmed up for our shot at the **Jim Crockett Senior Memorial Cup,**" said **Flair.** "We are the odds-on favorites to take the **cup**, and this will be a great warm up."

Who are the **Risky Business Boys**? The team of **Ron Garvin** and **Dusty Rhodes.** The two scored a convincing win over the **Flair-Anderson** Combination when **Garvin** knocked out **Flair** and **Rhodes** executed the pin. The result was a mass celebration between **Rhodes, Baby Doll** and **Garvin.**

"Georgeous" Jimmy Garvin and **Precious** made their appearance on **World Wide Wrestling, Mid-Atlantic Championship Wrestling** and **World Championship Wrestling.** "Don't touch your dial," said **Garvin**. "You are watching the **N.W.A.** and this is the best in wrestling. I have come here not only to show how great of a wrestler I am, but to also tell a little story about **Magnum T.A.** Many people don't know this, but he used to be a male dancer in San Francisco."

One of the hottest and bloodiest feuds seems to be rumbling again. It's the **Paul Jones-Jimmy "The Boggie-Woogie Man" Valiant** feud.

"The word is out," says **Jones**. "I've armed myself with the biggest, meanest men in wrestling, and I am now ready to finish Valiant off once and for all."



Ronnie Garvin

In 1984 and 1985 the two men's hatred for each other saw **"Dog Collar Matches"** and other types of battles. The situation all began when **Jones** and his two men—**The Assassins #1 and #2**—attacked **Valiant** and cut off his beard. **Valiant** retaliated by hurting **Jones,** causing the manager to have three operations to repair the damage. The feud cooled, but now it has broken out again.

"Time is on my side. Paul Jones will be mine fo' long," says **Valiant.**

When **World Championship Wrestling** was nearing another end, a battle broke out that nearly destroyed every camera on the **WTBS** studio floor. **U.S. Heavyweight Champion, Magnum T.A.**

Ole Anderson (L) and Arn Anderson

had just secured another win, and was making his way out of the ring when **Ivan** and **Nikita Koloff** walked in to do their scheduled interview. **Magnum** decided to stay in the ring to listen to what the **Russians** had to say. Finally, repeated bickering between **Nikita** and **Magnum** led to **Ivan** restraining **Nikita** from entering the ring. That gave **Magnum** the opportunity to jump on **Nikita,** and the fight was on. Every wrestler remaining in the dressing rooms stormed the studio floor to pull the two apart. Finally, the two were separated, but the hatred still goes on.

"**Nikita Koloff** will *never* have this title," says **Magnum.** "He will never get his hands on the belt as long as there is a breath left in my body."

According to calculations, **Dusty Rhodes'** reign as **National Heavyweight Champion** is drawing to an end. That's if you believe the comments of **James J. Dillon** and **Tully Blanchard.** The two have been claiming the **National Title** is on a time schedule until it belongs to their company—**TB Enterprises.**

J.J. Dillon

"The contracts are there for **Rhodes** to sign," says **Dillon.** "The time is growing near for the **American Dream.**"

N.W.A. World Junior Heavyweight Champion Denny Brown is receiving a stiff challenge from former champion **Nelson Royal.** The former champion has come out of retirement to challenge for the title which he once held.

N.W.A. World Television Champion Arn Anderson has openly stated he will defend his title on T.V. weekly against *any* opponent. However recently, when he saw the name **Ron Garvin** on the contract for a match on **World Championship Wrestling**, then he quickly thought twice.

"This is a conspiracy between **Jim Crockett Promotions, WTBS**, the **National Wrestling Alliance** and **Dusty Rhodes** to get me done in on T.V.," said an irate **Anderson.** "Well, it's not going to work. Garvin has to prove he can beat me for the title. I don't have to prove a thing."

The two wrestled to an exciting 10 minute draw. However, **Garvin** was the victim of the **Anderson "Gord Buster"** when **Ric Flair** came to ringside to divert his attention and **Anderson** jumped him from behind.

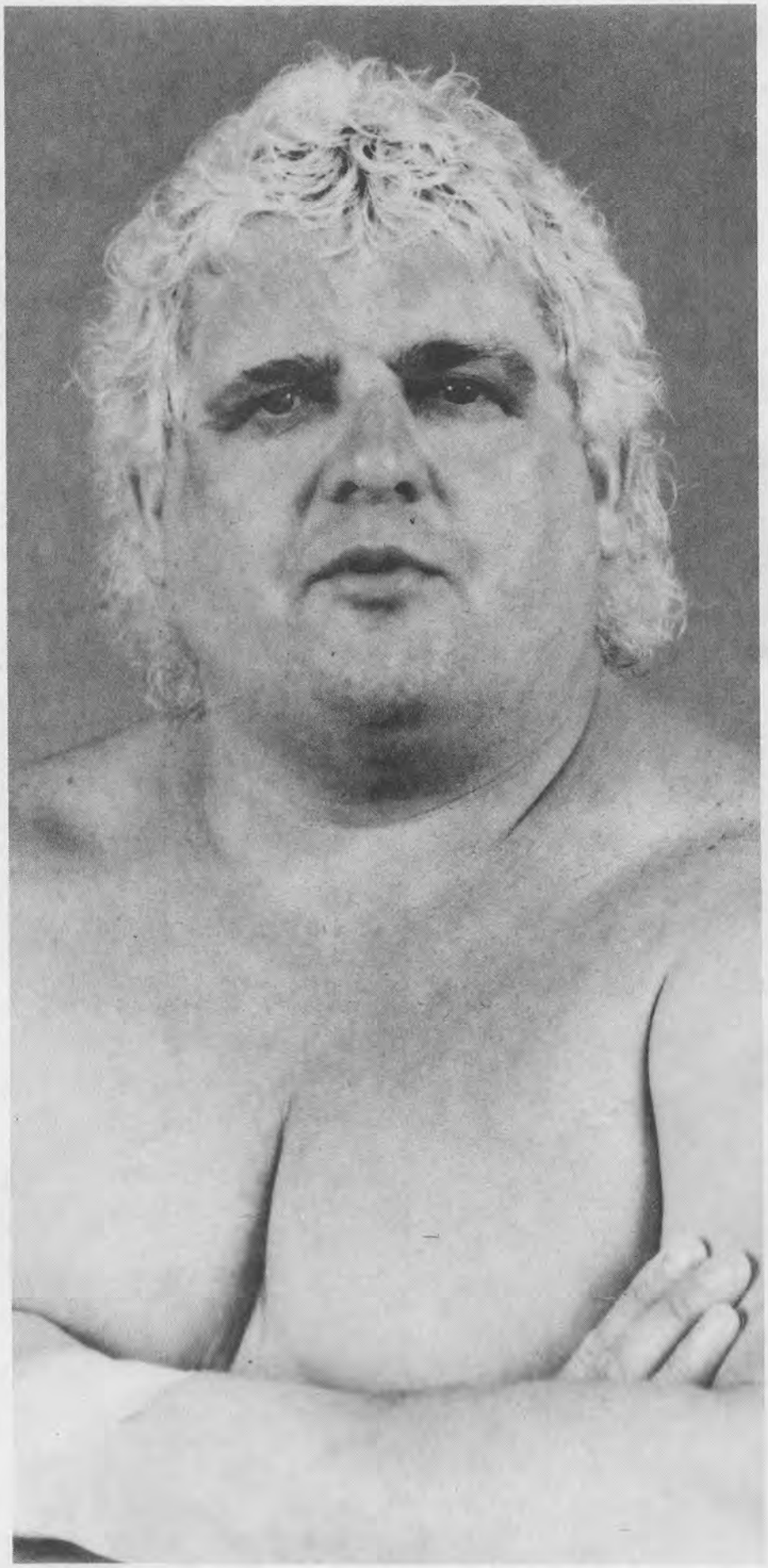
Wrestling observers all realize the fact that **Dusty Rhodes** never lost the **N.W.A. World Television Championship** to **Arn Anderson. Rhodes** was stripped of the title by the **N.W.A.** in November of 1985. The removal of the title was because **Rhodes** failed to defend it within a 30-day period. An injury at the hands of **Ric Flair, Ole Anderson** and **Arn Anderson** put **Rhodes** out of action for over six week.

Rhodes is now the **National Heavyweight Champion.** However, he still has a desire to win back the **N.W.A. World Television Championship**, and to, as he says, "Make **Arn Anderson** suffer the pain, blues and agony I did." Recently, **Rhodes** entered the ring during an **Arn Anderson-Denny Brown** match. **Anderson** had injured **Brown**, but tried to inflict more pain on the young wrestlers, and **Rhodes** stepped in to intervene. The result was a heated battle between **Rhodes** and **Anderson.**The battle intensified when **Tully Blanchard** and **James J. Dillon** arrived. **Dillon** removed his shoe and **Blanchard** smashed it into the forehead of **Rhodes.** The final result saw **Magnum T.A.** storm the ring to help out his tag team partner.

"You're next," said **Rhodes**, "**Arn Anderson**, you will go the way of **Ole**. Payback is mine."

Helping out **Rhodes** was not all that **Magnum T.A.** had on his mind. **Ivan Koloff** announced on nationwide T.V. that **Nikita Koloff** would not appear on T.V. again until he received a **U.S. Heavyweight Title** shot on T.V.

"The Kremlin has ordered that our superior athlete not appear on American television again until he gets a chance to wrestle **Magnum T.A.** for the **United States Heavyweight Championship** here on T.V.," says **Ivan**. "We know the reason all of the N.W.A. television programs get such a great rating is because of the constant appearance of **Nikita**. That will all change. The next time the Ameri-



Dusty Rhodes

The Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup

can people see him, he will be wrestling—and defeating—**Magnum T.A.** on nationwide T.V."

Nikita's final appearance on the nationwide **World Wide Wrestling** was a handicap match against both **Jim and Mac Jeffers. Nikita** applied the "Russian Sickle" to both men and pinned both at the same time. His last appearance on **WTBS' World Championship Wrestling** was against **Josh Stroud**. After beating **Stroud** with the "Sickle," both **Nikita** and **Ivan** began stomping and kicking the young athlete. **Magnum T.A.** stormed the ring and was also attacked. He suffered the "Russian Sickle," off of the top rope by **Nikita**. **Rhodes** entered the ring to help out his teammate.

"I will meet **Nikita Koloff** anytime," says **Magnum**, "but let's get one thing straight. It's going to be one-on-one. If he can meet me without his **Uncle Ivan**, let's go for it."

N.W.A. World Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair is now the proud owner of a new championship belt. The belt, presented to him by the N.W.A., is a breathtaking trophy consisting of diamonds, rubies, silver and gold. Reported cost was $35,000.

Four weeks is the time period **Tully Blanchard** and **James J. Dillon** have set for **Blanchard** to win the **National Heavyweight Championship** from **Dusty Rhodes.** "Four weeks is all you have, **Rhodes**," says **Blanchard**. "**James J. Dillon** has given me the confidence to get the job done quicker than I had ever planned."

"**Tully Blanchard** has never scared me before," says **Rhodes.** "So what makes him think he will do it this time? See, I have **Baby Doll** with me now, and if she has anything to do with it you know **Blanchard** is going to have his hands full."

Paul Jones has added yet another man to his "stable" of athletes. He is **Teijho Kahn**, a man from Singapore who is as vicious as any man now employed by **Jones.**

"Just another man to prove that I have the greatest ability in wrestling as a manager," says **Jones**. "I have proved this fact over and over again, and **Teijho Kahn's** appearance here proves that I control the most awesome men in the sport." Add **Kahn** to the list now dotted with **Baron Von Raschke** and **the Barbarian**, and it seems **Jones** is going to have a great 1986.

Since winning the **N.W.A. World Tag Team Championship** the **Midnight Express'** manager **Jim Cornette**, has had more problems than he would like to admit. First, the N.W.A. fined him $5,000 for using a tennis racquet in the match in which his **Midnight Express** won the **N.W.A. World Team Championship.** Then **Jim Crockett, Jr.**, president of **Jim Crockett Promotions, Inc.**, announced he had been in meetings all week to try and ban the racquet from any matches involving **Cornette.**

However, the biggest problem facing **Cornette** is **"Betty Lou."** The name **"Betty Lou"** was given to the small steel cage owned by **Dusty Rhodes.** It has been used many times to keep out managers or valets who interfere in matches. Through manipulation and encouragement, **Cornette** will be locked in **"Betty Lou,"** and hoisted high above the ring in many title defenses against the **Rock and Roll Express**.

"What does **Jim Crockett Promotions** think I am, an animal?" asked an irate **Cornette. Jim Crockett** had no comment on the situation.

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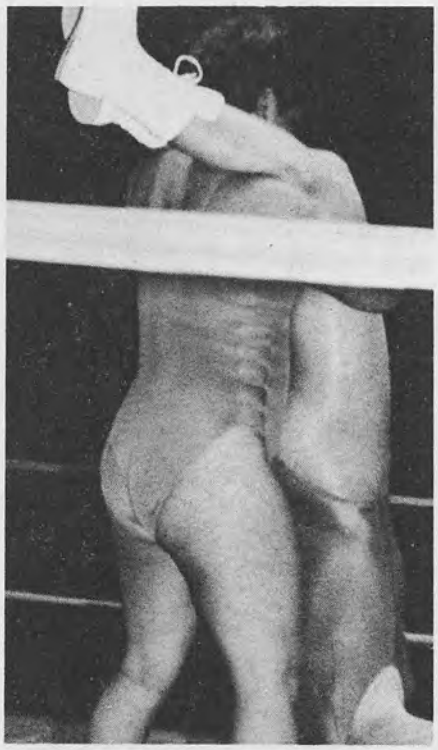

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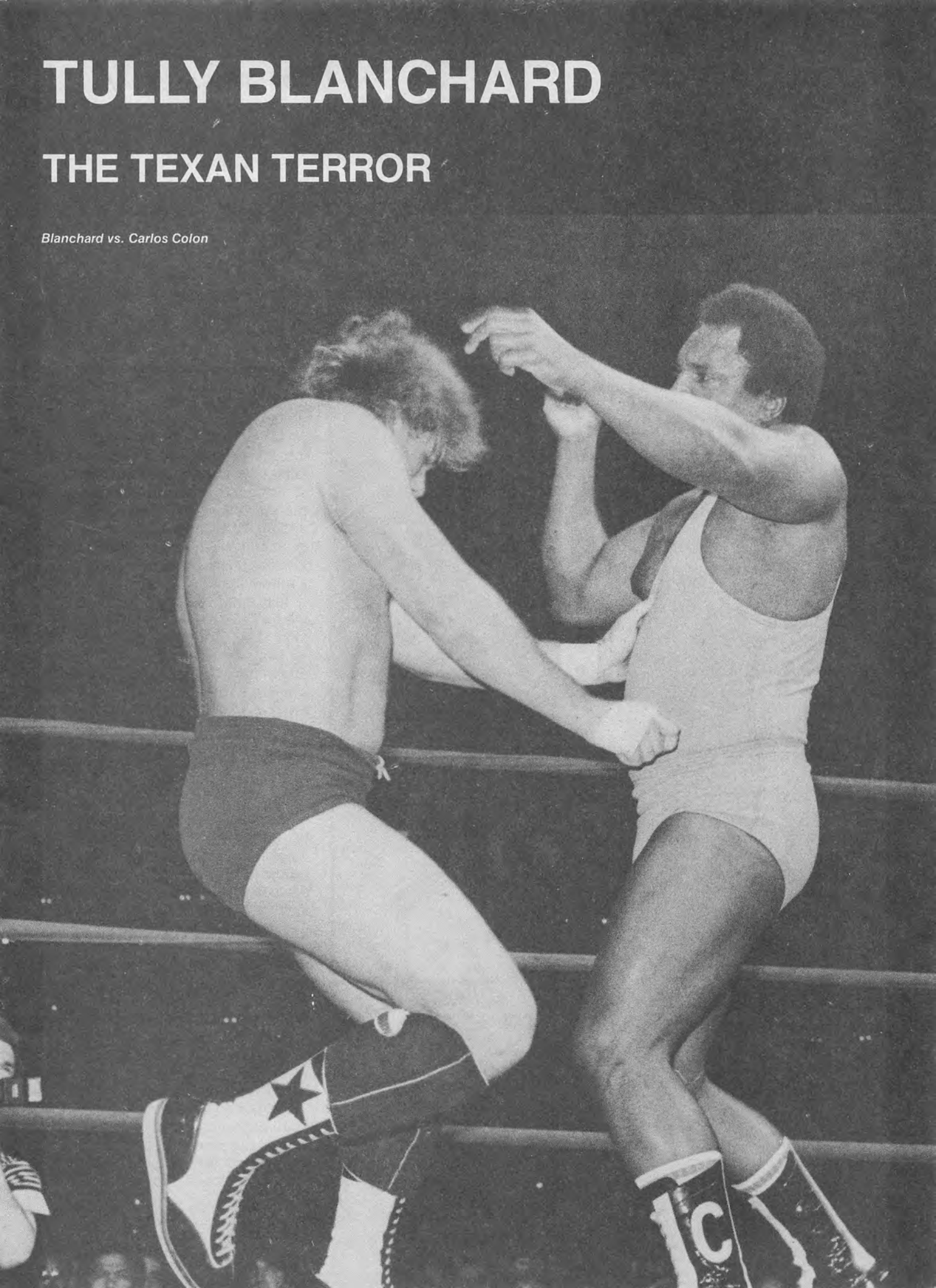

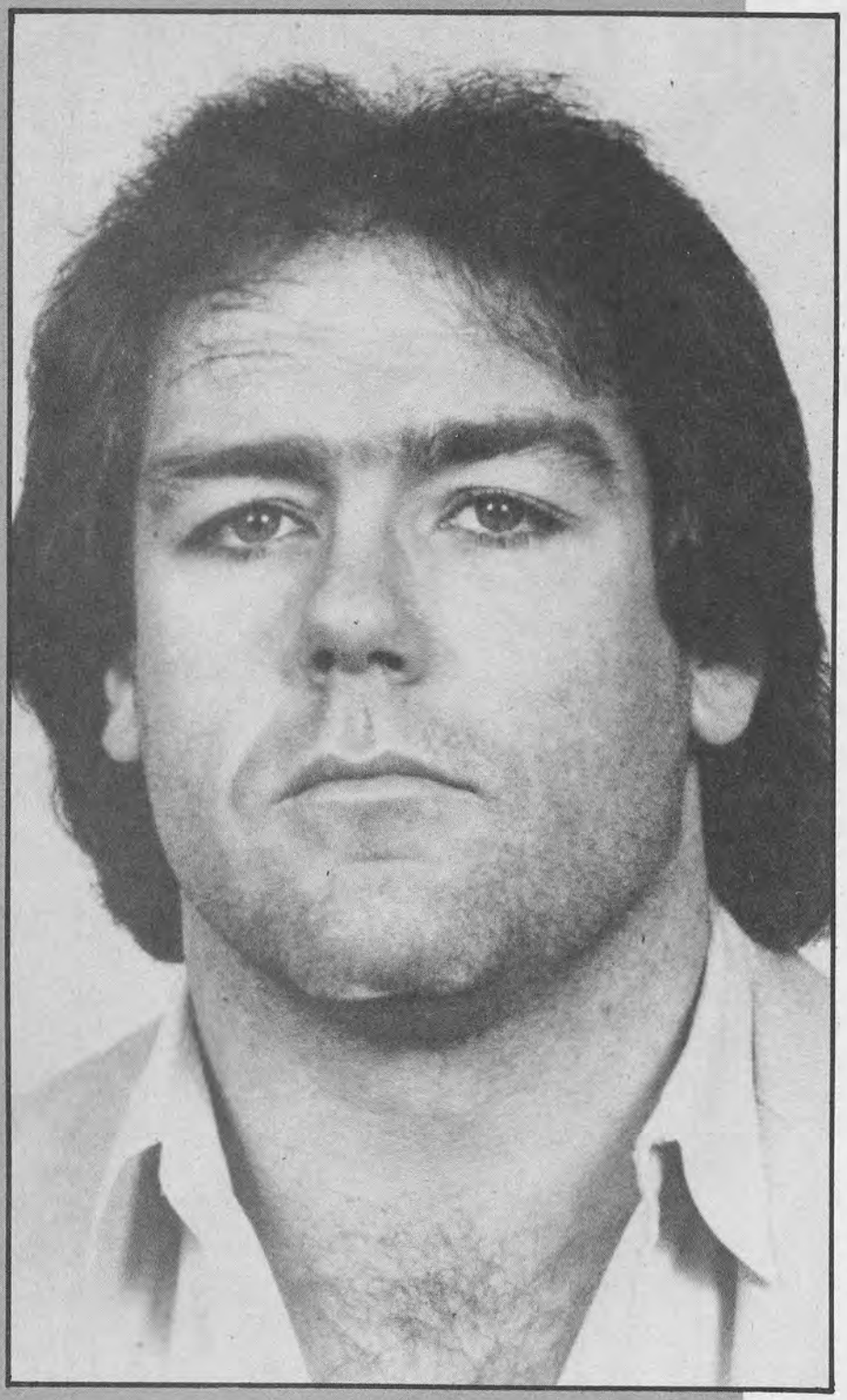

Handsome Tully played football at West Texas State. In the summers, he refereed for his father's wrestling promotion in San Antonio.

By Domino Records

He's as good as they come, a helluva good technician and a damn fine rule breaker. But for some reason or another, he's never gotten the full tilt push from the promoters.

Oh yes, he's held the US Title and is currently the National Champ, a belt won, with the aid of on-again-off-again buddy Ric Flair, from the obese Dusty Rhodes. But no one gives a hoot about the National Title, no one. Dusty won it in a tournament in Albuquerque and I don't know anyone who was there. As far as I know, there are no photos. It seems like some under-the-table funny business to me. The smart money says that belt goes the way of the Mid-Atlantic Title and the World Television Title, that is, unofficially retired, trinkets left for the bottom of the card. And it's a rotten shame.

Tully deserves much better. To me he'll always be the TV Champion of the World. He held the belt for longer than anyone in the history of the NWA and he defeated it with class, offering ten-thou of his own cash as a reward for anyone who could beat him in the time limit made by him. Those are, afterall, the rules: the TV Champ gets to defend the belt on TV and he gets to set the time limit. But, undermined by promoters, he lost the belt to Dusty, took it back, lost it again in the steel cage and that was when Dusty got his grubby paws on Tully's "perfect ten" Baby Doll.

Enough has already been said about Bobby Doll's flip-flopping from man to man, from Tully's ex-tag partner, the late Gino Hernandez, to Tully to The American Whale and, to top it all off, she's going to marry Sam Houston. No, really—but don't expect to hear about it on TV, just remember you heard it here first.

So Tully copped the US strap from Magnum, and the fued was off and running. Those bouts for the US Belt were amongst the most intense battles this reporter

WRESTLING EYE

has ever seen; indeed, it is always refreshing to see two men wrestle who *really* hate each other. Hell—I saw them get into a fracas in the dressing room, foul language, spit and death threats, coming just short of blows. In a lot of ways, it restored my faith.

But Tully was destined to lose the US belt. And what difference did it make? He never, maybe once, got the title shots at Flair, shots that he earned as the US Champion, the number one contender. He kept on battling Magnum (who proved to be the less scientific of the two) unsuccessfully, drained and frustrated by the loss of his once precious Baby Doll. I believe Tully Blanchard deserved a lot better than that.

OK. So Tully hires on J.J. Dillon, a manager of champions whose career was also stagnating. And now, after getting tangled in a messy feud with Jimmy Valiant—messy because The Boogie Woogie man is never any fun to watch unless he's bleeding an awful lot—Tully is the new National Champ. J.J. and Tully, hopefully, are picking up some momentum and getting ready to kick some tail—but whose? Dusty's? Magnum's? Who else is there? It doesn't look like Tully's gonna get a crack at the Heavyweight Title, and anyway, he and Flair are pals these days.

But Tully is one of the elite of the NWA, and like his buddy Ric says, "A man without a belt is like a man without a country." So Tully's connected once again—it seems like he's never too long without a belt of some kind. Still, amongst the men who make up the top shelf of the NWA, Tully always gets the raw deal, forced to wrestle Dusty Rhodes and Magnum over and over again, until he's forced to tangle at the bottom of the card. He isn't particularly popular, and unfortunately he isn't *that* hated. But he's a terrific grappler—a postscientific visionary what with his "roplex" and yes, he'd make a

Blanchard lost both the NWA TV title and valet Baby Doll to Rhodes.

great World Champion.

So perhaps Tully is on the upswing. He's got a top-flight manager and The National Heavyweight Title. Maybe, at the very least, it'll keep him off the bottom of the card and away from guys like Jimmy Valiant.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Tully Blanchard is the new National Heavyweight Champion. He pinned Dusty Rhodes to win the title in Spartanburg, SC. NWA World Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair was one of the commentators, and lent expert analysis to the match. However, many people will tell you he was instrumental in Blanchard winning the title. After the match, an upset Baby Doll charged the ring. She was tackled by Arn Anderson and Blanchard, while Flair prepared to jump from the top turnbuckle. Luckily, Magnum, the Rock 'N' Roll Express and Sam Houston arrived before Flair could make his jump.)

Tully gains the upper hand over Dusty Rhodes.

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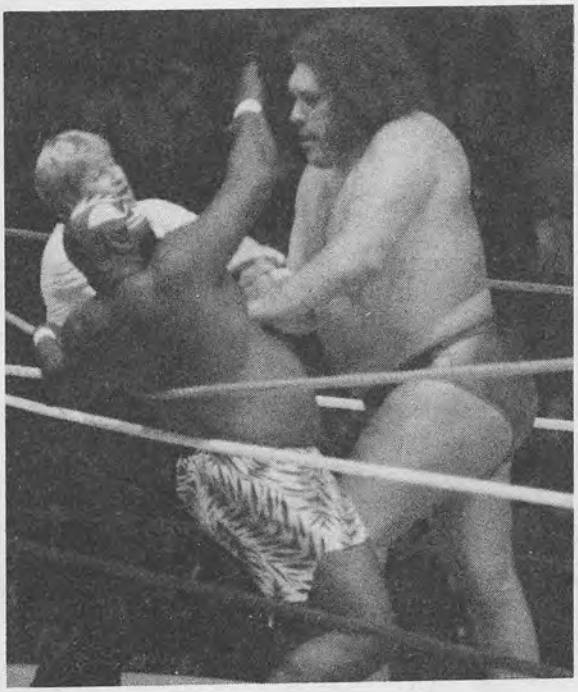

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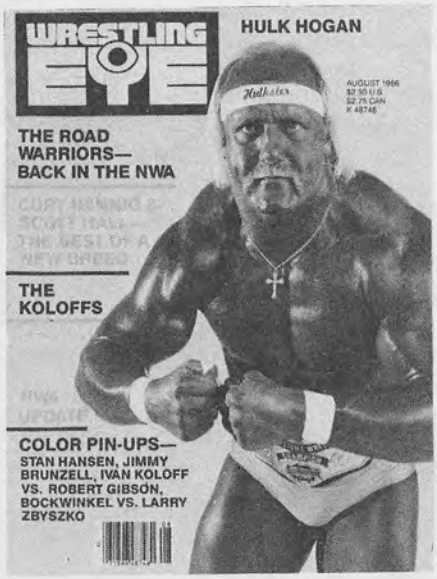

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BRET HART

CANADA'S HIT MAN

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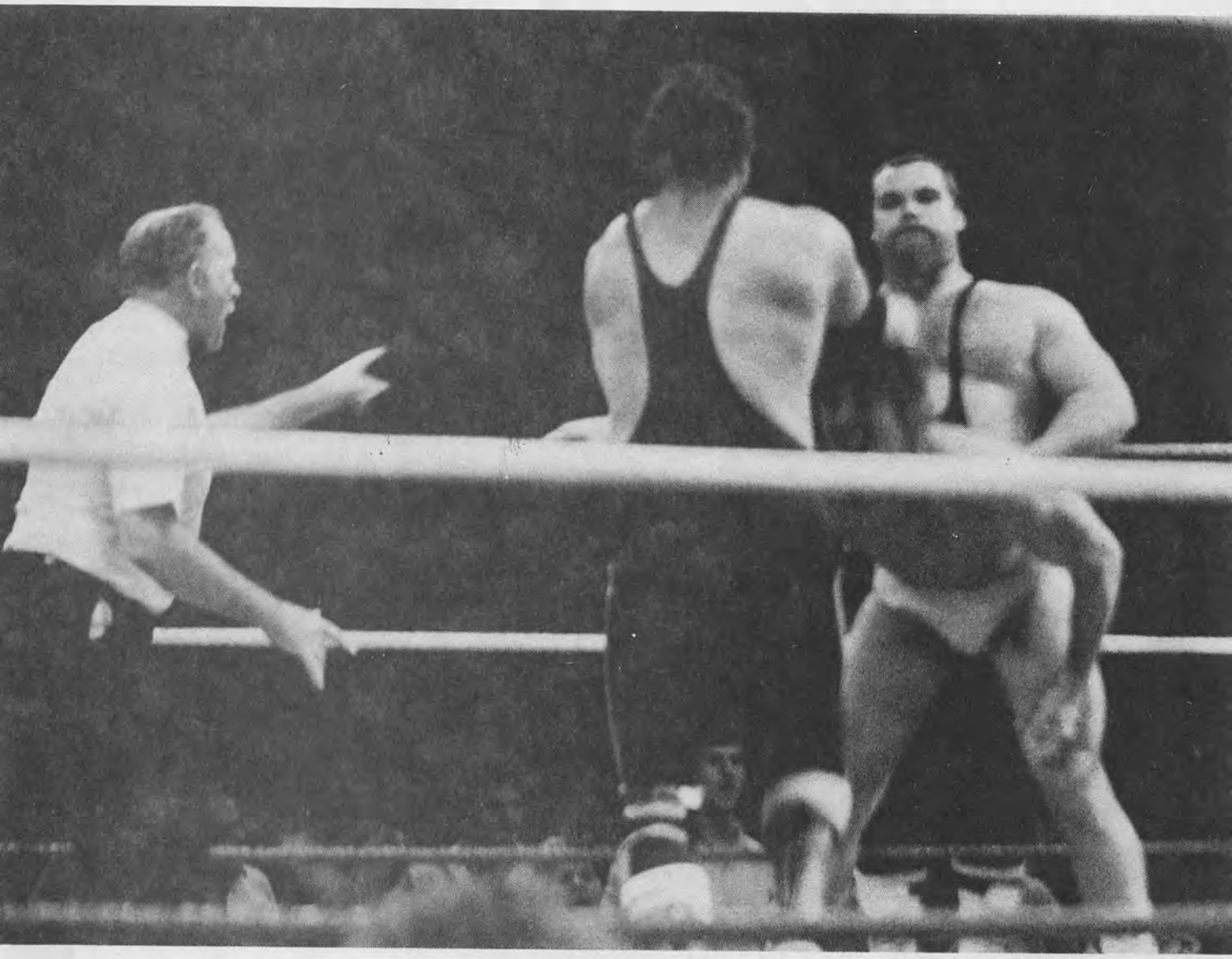


The teamwork of Hart and Neidhart is in full-force in the WWF.

This month's feature focuses on Bret "Hit Man" Hart, one of the rising stars in the WWF. After successful stints in Canada, Japan and Europe, Bret has succeeded in making a name for himself on Titan cards since his debut over a year ago.

After establishing himself as an excellent scientific grappler, Bret shocked the wrestling world when he suddenly adopted a roughhouse style in the ring along with joining manager Jimmy Hart's stable He is currently teaming with brother-in-law Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart and creating havoc in every city and small town in which they appear.

At 6'1" and 240 lbs., Bret shows much speed, strength, and an excellent background of wrestling in all his bouts. He has gained a renowned reputation throughout the world for being one of the top superstars of the eighties.

Bret began his career in 1978 under the training of his father, Stu, in Calgary, after a very successful amateur career. In his first year as a pro, he captured the Commonwealth Junior Heavyweight championship from Norman Frederick Charles III, and successfully retained the title against such top contenders as Dynamite Kid, Marty Jones and Tatsmui Fujinami for over a year before he vacated it to move up to the heavyweight division.

Bret's next major title sweep was when he captured the North American title from Leo Burk in 1980, which launched his career after a very successful start. Since then he has captured the coveted title on four occasions, winning over such stars as Bad News Allen,

"Dr. D." David Schultz, "Iron" Mike Sharpe, Great Kabuki and Hercules Ayala. Bret has also been successful in tag work, sharing the International tag team title with brother Keith on three different occasions and also with Leo Burk.

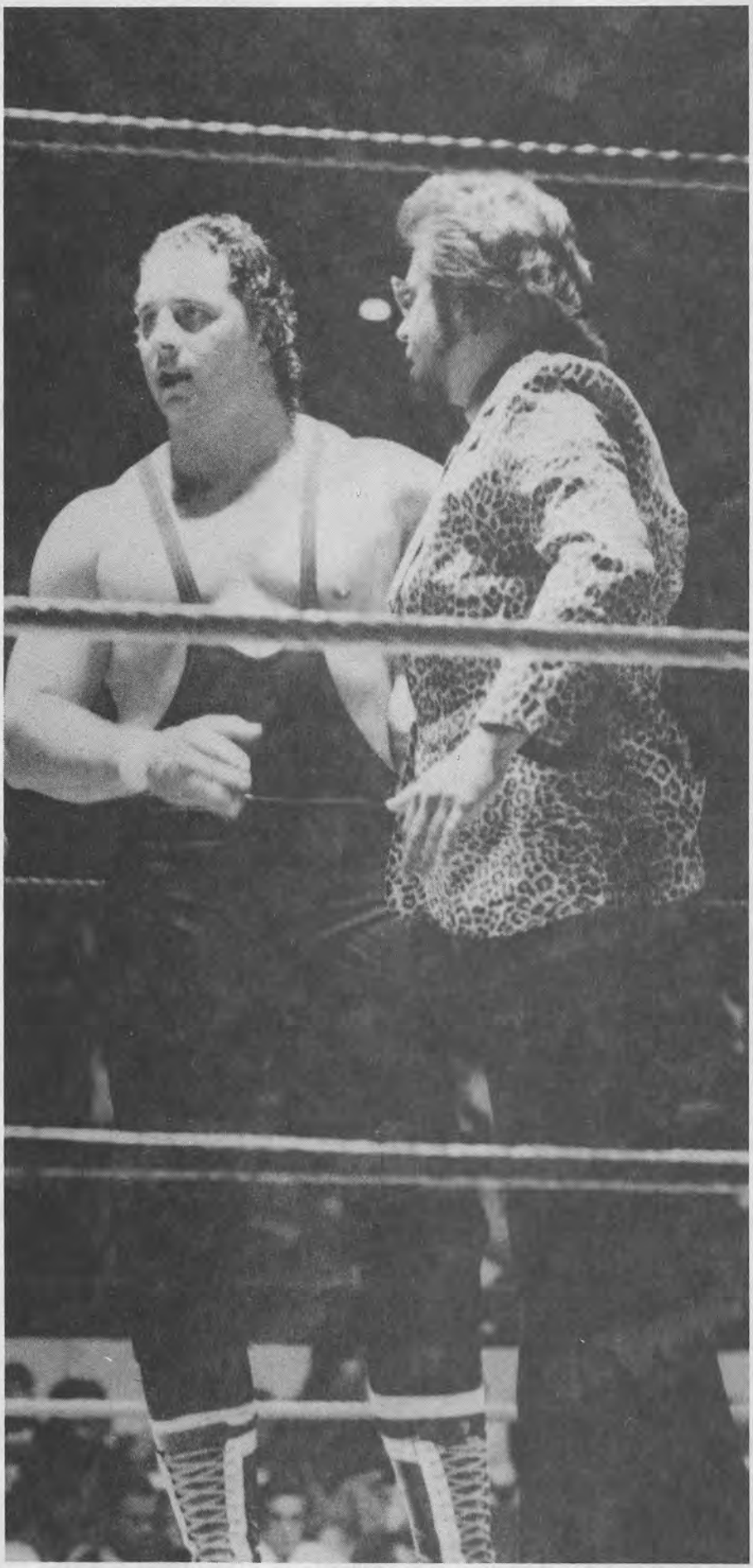
Although Bret calls Calgary home, he has globe-trotted nearly every part of the world including Japan, Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand, the Caribbean, the Middle East, United States and Canada.

Why the change from fan-favorite to now one of the most disliked in the WWF? "I was unhappy because I wasn't getting my share of top matches and many of the so-called champions were ducking me," Bret said. "Jim Neidhart has been very successful under Jimmy's wing and since we've joined forces, we've been unbeatable!" He continued by saying, "My change in style has been worthwhile to earn top bouts and title shots, and Jimmy not only looks after all our business negotiations and matches but is an excellent coach and inspiration to all his men."

Over the last few months he and "the Anvil" have found themselves facing the British Bulldogs as their number one rivals. When asked how he felt about going up against Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid, also from Calgary, Bret said "They're effective as a team, showing great strength, speed and agility, but I know their weaknesses. My speed, combined with the strength of "the Anvil" will overcome the British Bulldogs, the Killer Bees, or any other teams that get in our way."

Bret is probably the most underrated wrestler in the WWF today. When he made the change from 'baby face' to 'heel' a lot of fans were shocked, but have slowly come to realize that by becoming the arrogant bad guy he now is, his display of talents has only broadened.

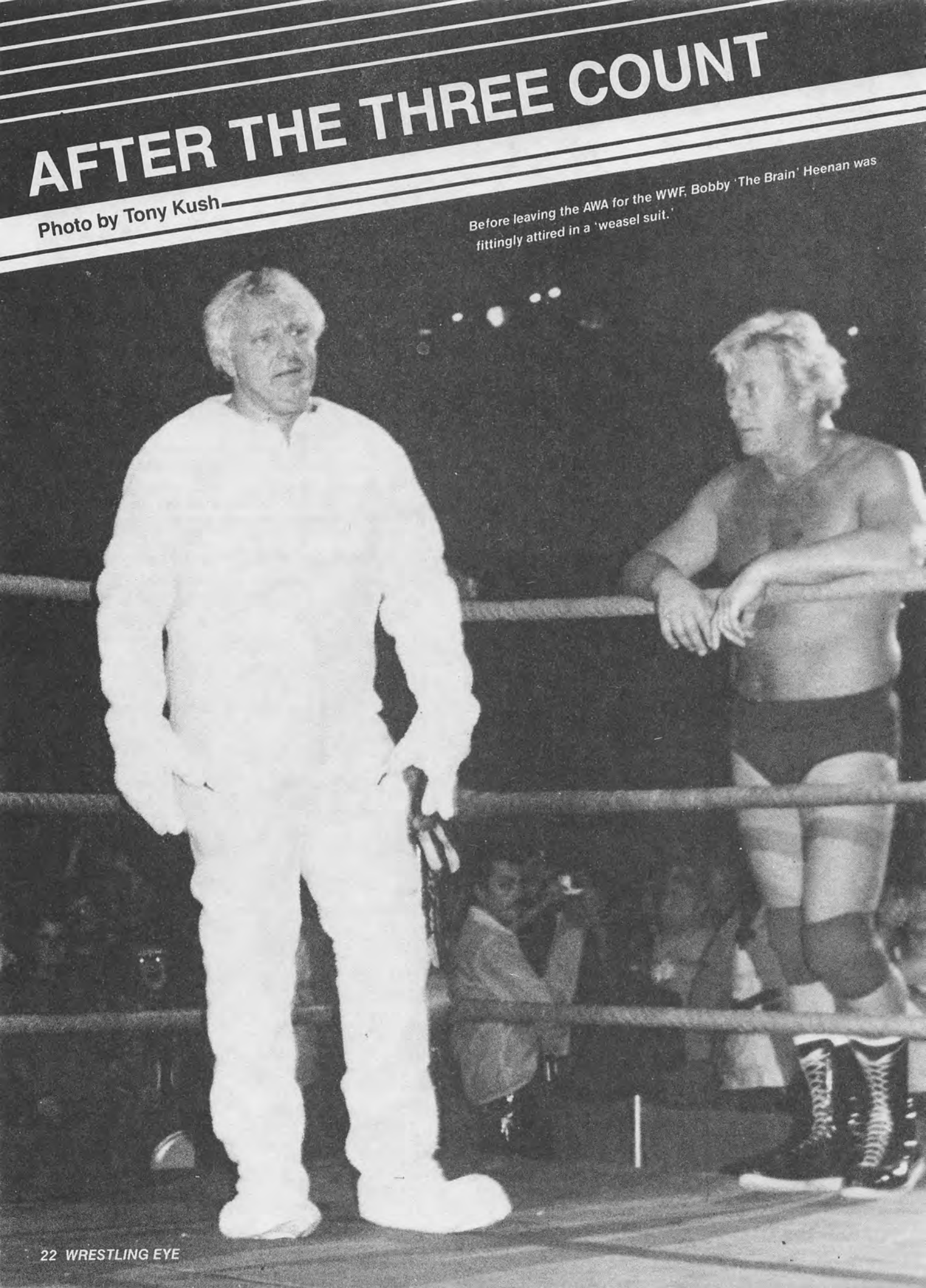
Becoming a member of the 'Hart Foundation' was probably one of the best moves Bret has ever made. At a still young age, the "Hit Man" looks like he will conquer even more horizons as he continues to devastate all opponents under the tutelage of Jimmy Hart!



Bret Hart and Jimmy Hart are an outstanding manager-wrestler duo.

AFTER THE THREE COUNT

Photo by Tony Kush



Before leaving the AWA for the WWF, Bobby 'The Brain' Heenan was fittingly attired in a 'weasel suit.'

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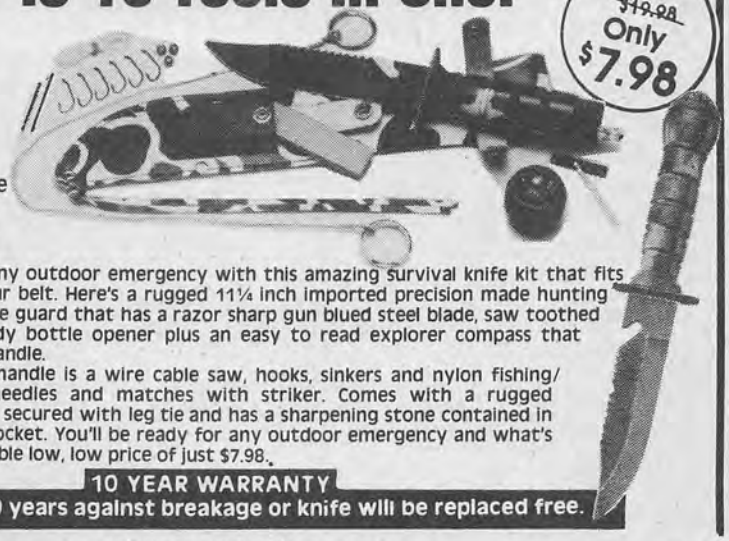

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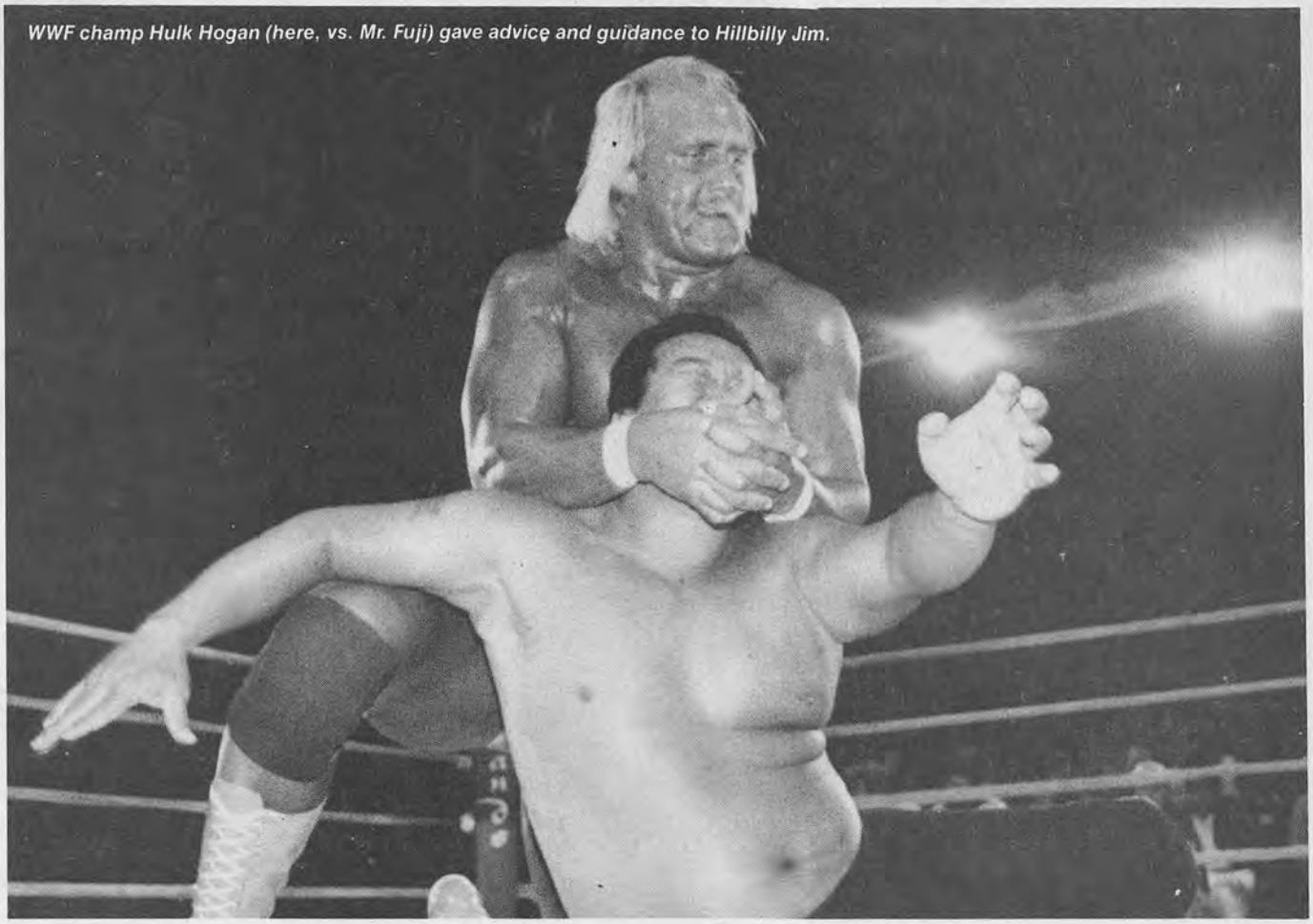


WWF champ Hulk Hogan (here, vs. Mr. Fuji) gave advice and guidance to Hillbilly Jim.

WRESTLING EYE

By Ed Garea

Imagine this—two monstrous wrestlers are battling it out in the ring. The handsome hero is taking a whaling when, from out of stands, comes a burly spectator to save him. Hillbilly Jim in 1985, right? Wrong, try Jimmy 'The Golden Greek' Londos way back in 1931. Only in those days, Jimmy dressed as a construction worker. Londos' garb was authentic, right down to the plaster chips on his shoes. Five decades later, ex-heel Jim Morris would use the same routine to catch the attention of Gorilla Monsoon and Vince McMahon, Jr.

In the 'Blue Grass State,' Jim's lack of grappling techniques still hampered his progress. Stuck in the preliminary ranks, he knew something had to be done. Packing his bags, Morris staked out the WWF-tv tapings in Bradford, Ontario. Week after week he purchased his ticket, praying for a chance to show what he could do. Hardly noticed at first, eventually Jim was focused on by TV-commentator Gorilla Monsoon. But it wasn't until the chance occurance of Hulk Hogan taking on Big John Studd in a non-title tv-match, that Morris got the 'big break.'

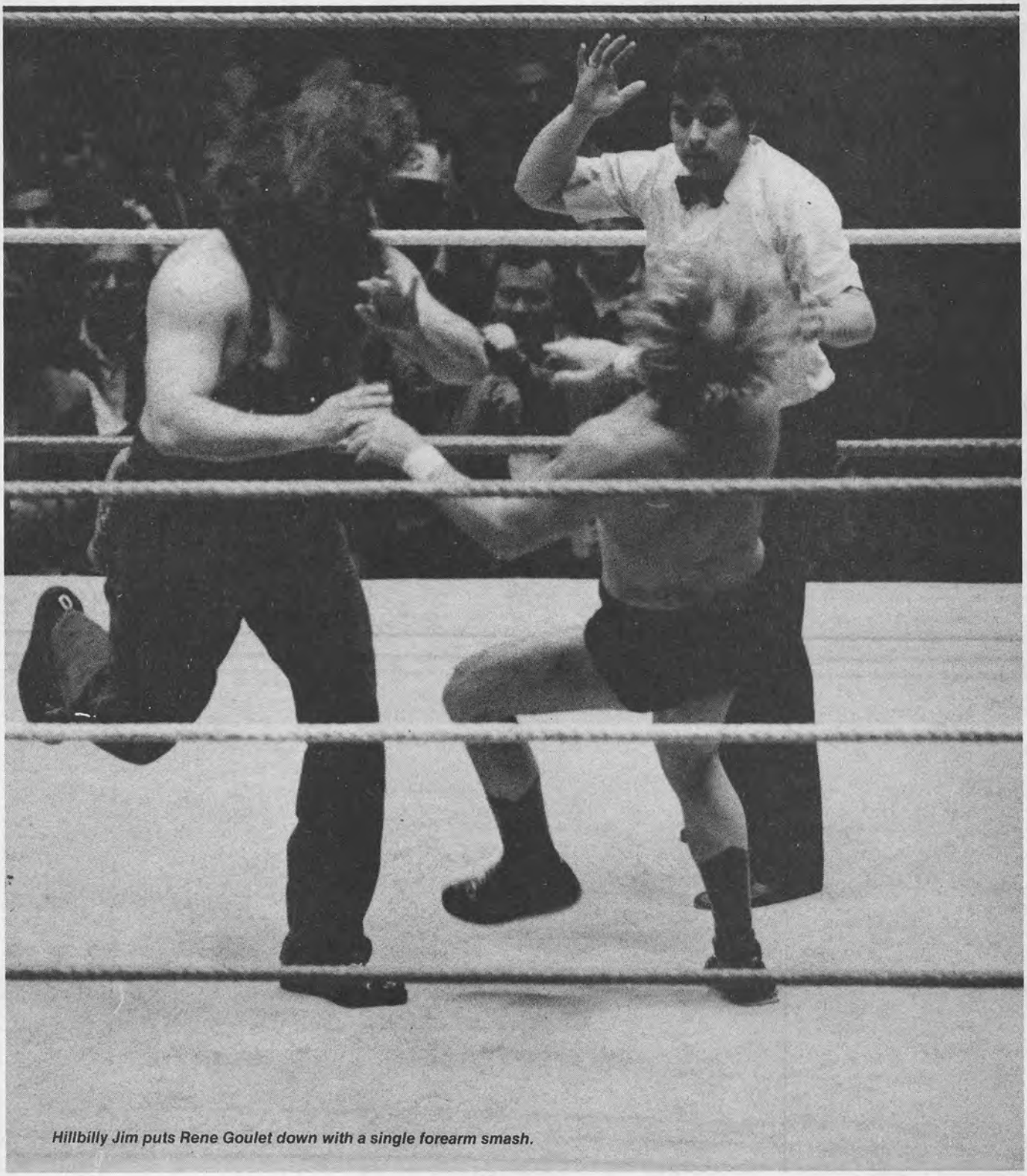
Hillbilly Jim gained notariety when he leaped in and saved Hulk from an unwanted Patera-Studd haircut. In gratitude, Hogan agreed to train the 'fan' at his own cost. Finally, Jim Morris was getting the instruction he sorely needed and from the WWF world champ, no less. His training sessions were all filmed and later televised. Although presented as only a fan, insiders quickly spotted him as Jim Morris.

Regardless, Jim was doing very well in the WWF. The one-time preliminary boy was now managed by Lou Albano, while Hulk Hogan continued to coach him. In Landover, Maryland, Hogan and Jim won $50,000 in a tag team battle royal. Morris' amazing pace came to a sudden and abrupt halt when Brutus Beefcake broke Jim's leg. Already a media sensation, this led to weekly updates on Hillbilly's hospitalization. When he was able to move about on crutches, Jim turned manager. His first and only clients were his Uncle Elmer (Dan Frazier) and Cousin Junior (Lanny Keenan). Problems arose with junior and he was replaced by the much bigger Cousin Luke (Gene Louis)

After his thigh bone healed, Hillbilly Jim returned to the ring even better than before. He is probably one of the most popular WWF stars, overshadowed only by the experienced likes of Hogan, Steamboat and Orndorff. Jim certainly has charisma, and little kids

Hillbilly Jim (seen here with Bobby Heenan and Lou Albano) has been joined by Uncle Elmer and Cousin Luke.

The Hillbillies are hot o the trail of Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine.



Hillbilly Jim puts Rene Goulet down with a single forearm smash.

love him. His recording "Don't Go Messing With A Country Boy," got a powerful push from McMahon and Epic Records. However, the song sank on the country charts and Jim came away empty-handed from the 'Slammies.'

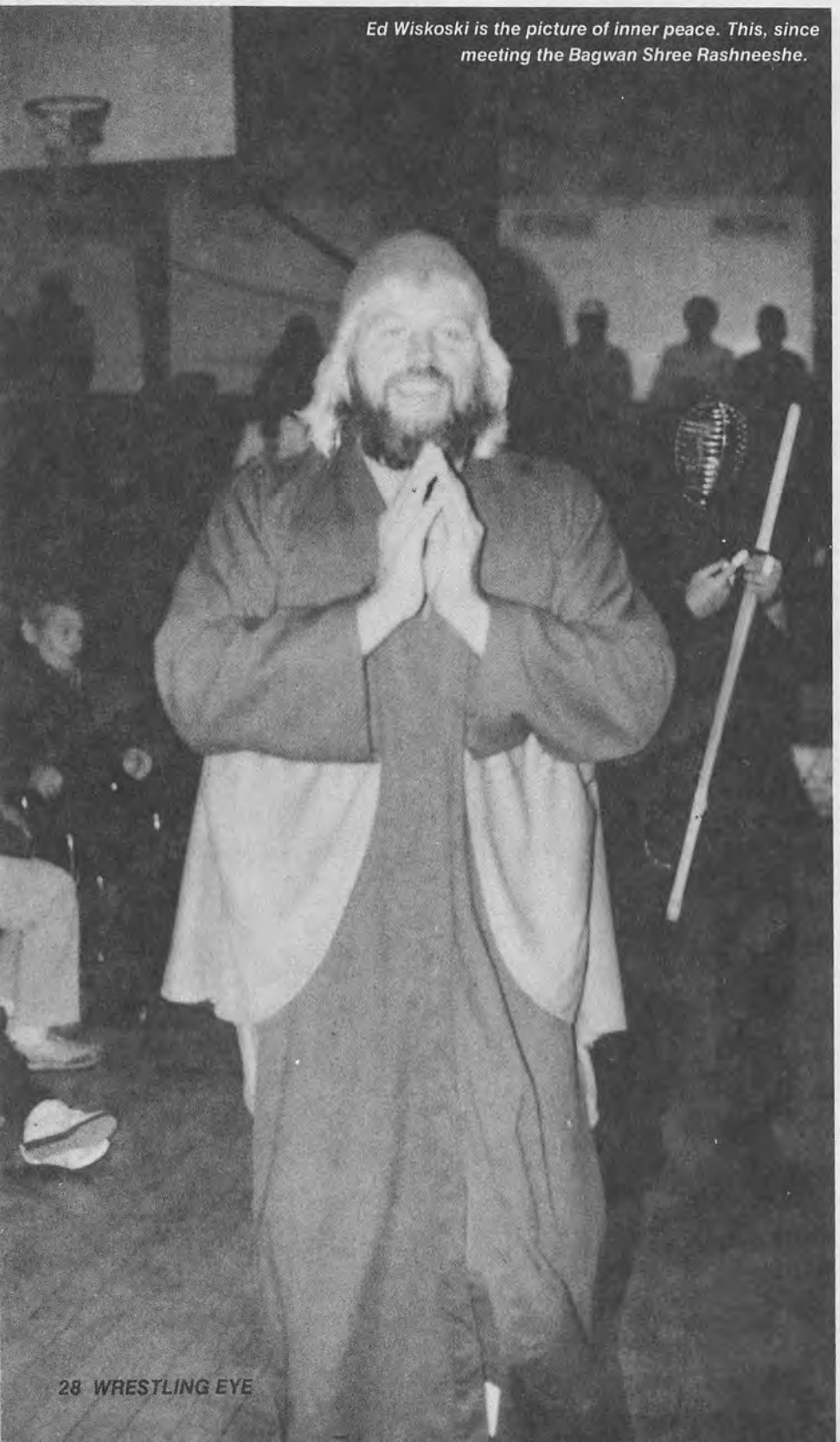
Basically, Jim's story is that of a former heavy, now loved by all. Only how has he reached main event status. Yet, as long as his mentor, Hulk Hogan, holds the world belt Jim will not be challenging for it. The bearded backwoods boy is satisfied with his success. Some experts believe the burden of Uncle Elmer and Cousin Luke might be too much for Jim. (Cousin Luke, recently had his leg broken by the Hart Foundation.) After all how can Jim keep improving, while at the same time continue to handle the careers of two other wrestlers?

Only Hillbilly can answer that question. Knowing Morris' sense of loyalty and dedication, chances are he will continue to divide his time between his own wrestling and that of his adopted family.

ED WISKOSKI

FROM WRESTLING RING TO COMMUNE

Photos & Text by Ken Hamblin



Ed Wiskoski is the picture of inner peace. This, since meeting the Bagwan Shree Rashneeshe.

What has happened to Ed Wiskoski? The proud Polish Prince we've known has seemingly disappeared; though still here in body, his spirit has undergone a drastic change.

It all started with Wiskoski's disappearance from the ring wars a few months ago. Rumors abounded that Ed had left the country, giving up professional wrestling for life in the Middle East. Another piece of gossip had him in Antelope, Oregon heading a new wing of a commune for the Bagwan Shree Rashneeshe.

Weeks and months passed with no sight or sound of the former Cincinatti Bengal Football star. No one knew where he had gone, and they were even more surprised when he made his return.

One night in the Portland Sports Arena a huge man resembling Wiskoski entered the ring in a long flowing red prayer robe and matching stocking cap, wearing a weird silver medallion. The man sported a long bushy beard and snow white hair, he was introduced as the Mega Mahareshee.

All of a sudden he grabbed the microphone and began to speak; then everyone knew Big Ed was back in town, but under different circumstances.

"I have returned to the Northwest and am now spreading the ways of the Mega Mahareshee. I am now spiritually enlightened and am more than just a wrestler," preached the Mega.

What was this Spiritual Enlightenment that the Mega was speaking of, and what kind of effect would it have on his wrestling? Would it change the big man into a scientific wrestler? Would this make him more vicious? Not much chance of that, as he was already one of the most feared grapplers all over the world.

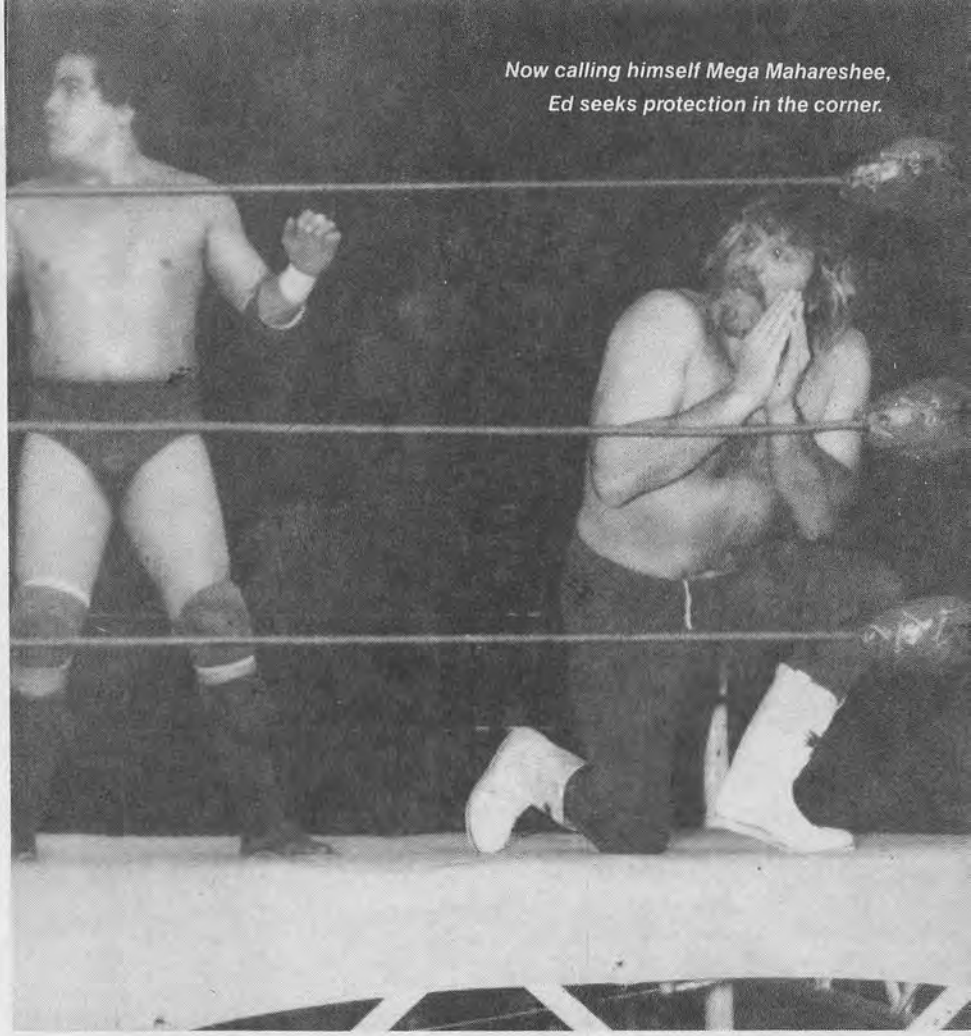
"'Spiritual Enlightenment' is a feeling of being at peace with yourself. Getting to know yourself and being in touch with your mind and body and making them as one."

This change in outlook did nothing to change the tactics of Wiskoski one bit. If anything, this change in attitude has made the Mega even more strong and vicious.

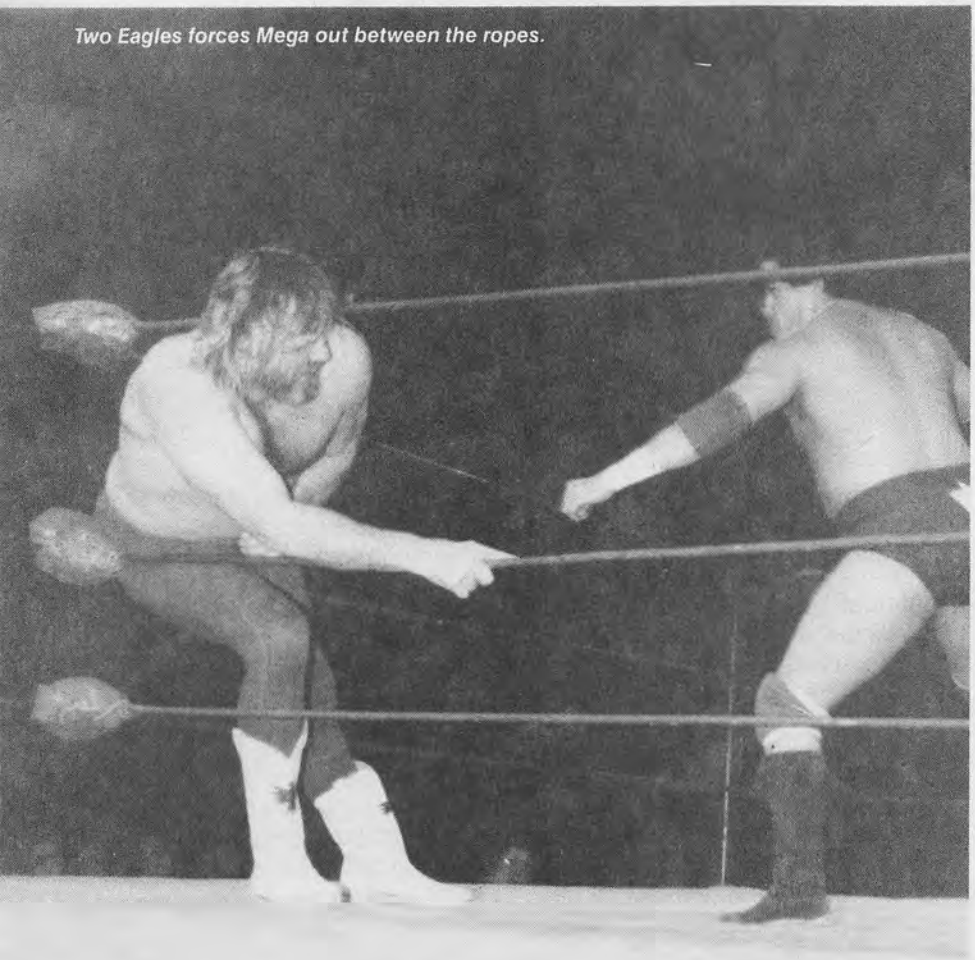
Although Ed claims no open alliance to the Bagwan, his cult of Mega Mahareshee is somewhat similar to that of the rashjneeshes. So much so that Ed has opened his own commune in the Willamate Valley of Oregon. The Ranchero La Mega is 120 acres of pure bottom land in Oregon's famous valley.

The followers of the Mega are schooled here. They live, eat, and breathe the ways of the Mega while donating 10% of their salary to the foundation.

Wiskoski started out in the midwest. wrestling for Bob Geigel in the Central States area. He was trained by the legendary Ronnie



Now calling himself Mega Mahareshee, Ed seeks protection in the corner.



Two Eagles forces Mega out between the ropes.

WRESTLING EYE

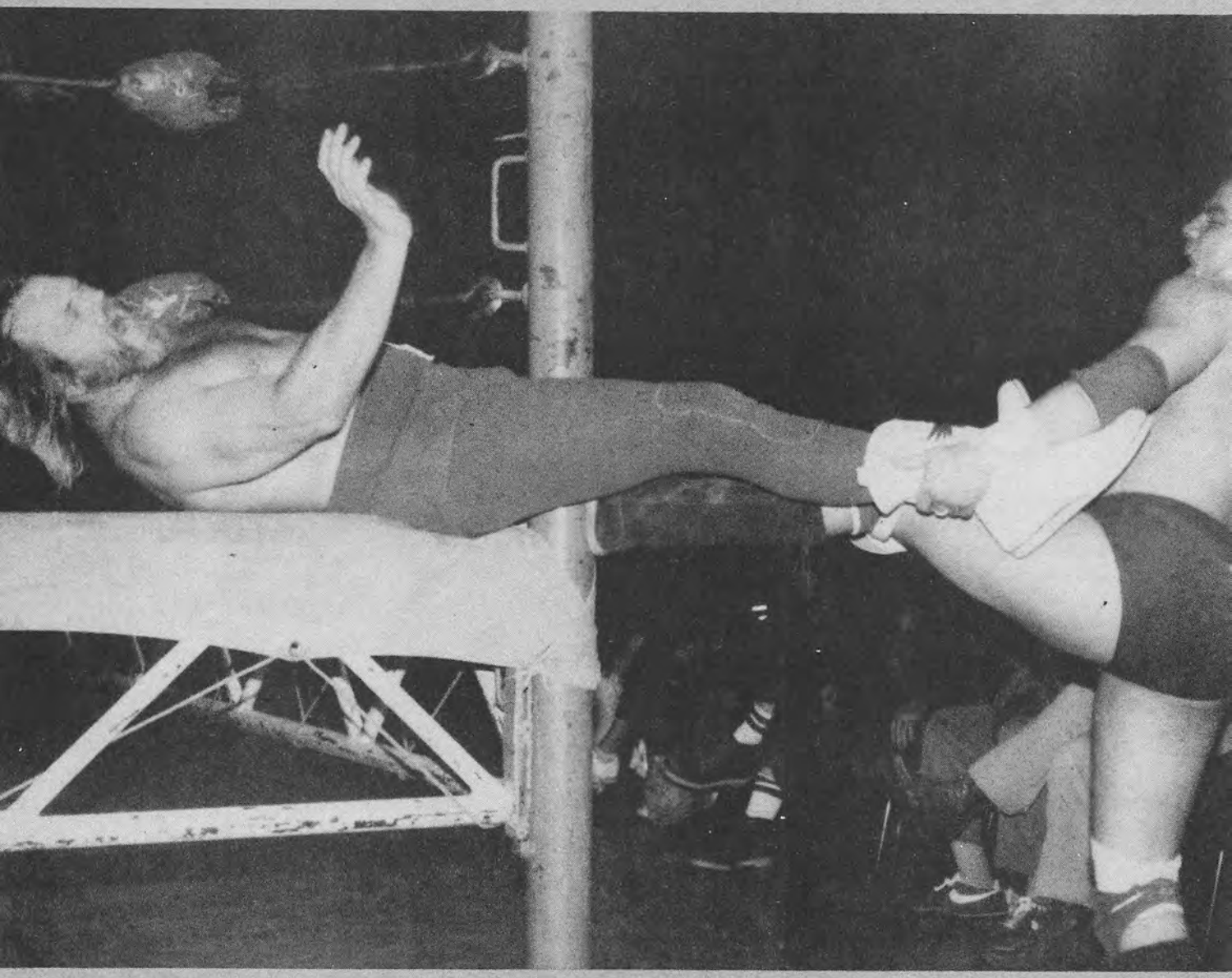
Etchison, and started his career as a fan favorite. Then there was a sudden change in Ed and he became a vicious rulebreaker.

Ed left the Central States, came to the Northwest, and teamed up with Playboy Buddy Rose.

These two men ruled the roost in the North country controlling the titles and making it a living hell for fans and wrestlers alike.

Ed left the Northwest to wrestle in Germany and Europe it was here that he gained his real claim to fame, the championship of the Grand Prix Tournament. He was the first American to win the tourney, and made history when he won it four years in a row.

When he wasn't wrestling, Wiskoski was taking care of his holdings in Florida and his ranch in Oregon. It was this land he later turned into the commune.



Billy Two Eagles pulls Mega into the ringpost.

It was after his return to the Northwest from the European circuits that the change to the Mega Mahareshee began. The disappearance and the drastic change in looks and attitude followed, and the Mega Mahareshee was born.

Ed's return to the area is to gain disciples for the foundation. Mega uses the television time he has on the local wrestling program to ask for funds for the foundation. He also carries this to the arenas that he wrestles in, by grabbing the microphone and asking for donations to keep his religious organization afloat.

Although he is without a wrestling disciple at the moment, the wiley Mega has a great number of followers here in the Northwest and around the world. One of his ardent followers is Kendo Nagasaki, the Black Ninja.

"Kendo was one of my greatest followers," stated Mega. "His martial arts training and new-found spiritual enlightenment made him the perfect partner. He is now spreading the word of the Mega."

Another man who entered the spiritual ways was Playboy Buddy Rose. Buddy joined the foundation and again the dream team of Rose and Wiskoski was terrorizing the Pacific Northwest.

The two men held the tag team titles on many different occasions, and were World Tag team Champions on two separate occasions

while they wrestled in California.

Rose and Mega again tried to gain the Northwest titles from then champions Joe Savoldi and Steve Simpson. Try as they might, the Dream Team was turned back by the young rock and roll kings.

This sent Rose to Florida and Wiskoski back to square one, looking for donations and gaining more followers to the Rancho La Mega commune.

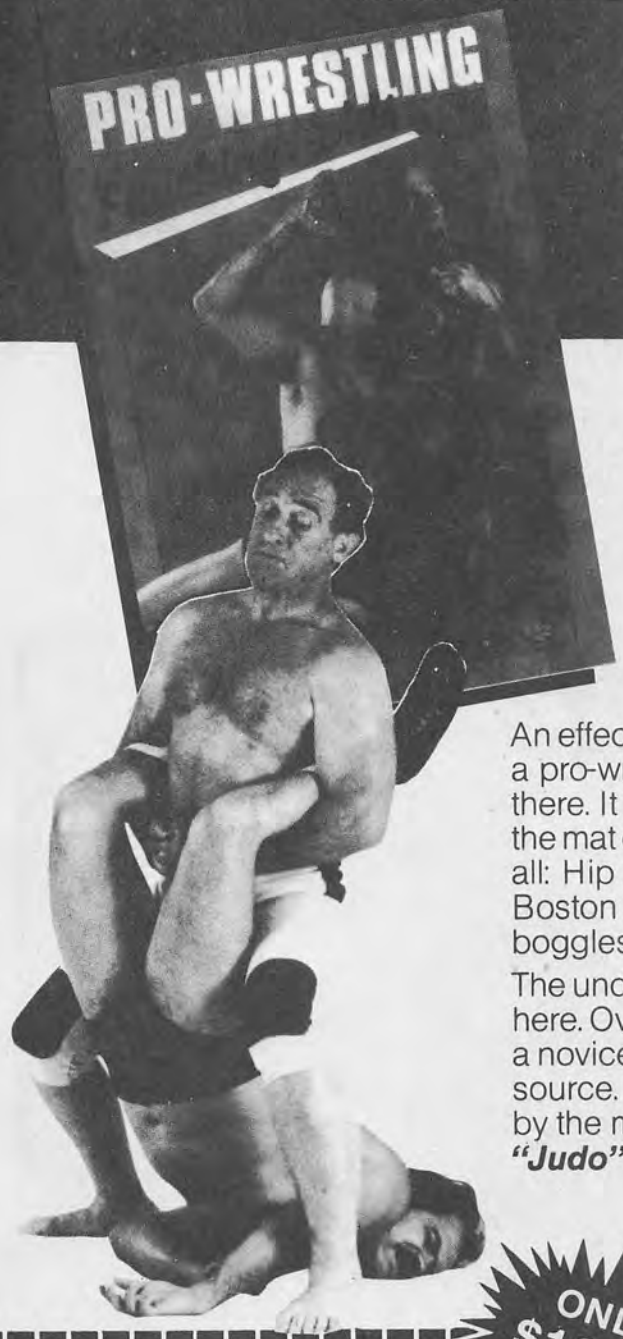
Ed is not like most wrestlers who go after the titles; he is actually looking to convert the whole world to Mega Maharęsheism, and is starting with the fans of the Northwest. Could we all be followers of the Mega? With the many trends that have entered professional sports today, maybe Mega Maharesheeism isn't such a bad idea.

Mega Mahareshee and Kendo Nagasaki.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

ABDULLAH VS. JIMMY VALIANT

LeBell Breaks the Sports Barrier!



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ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

We Will Never Say 'Die'!

By Barbi Barker

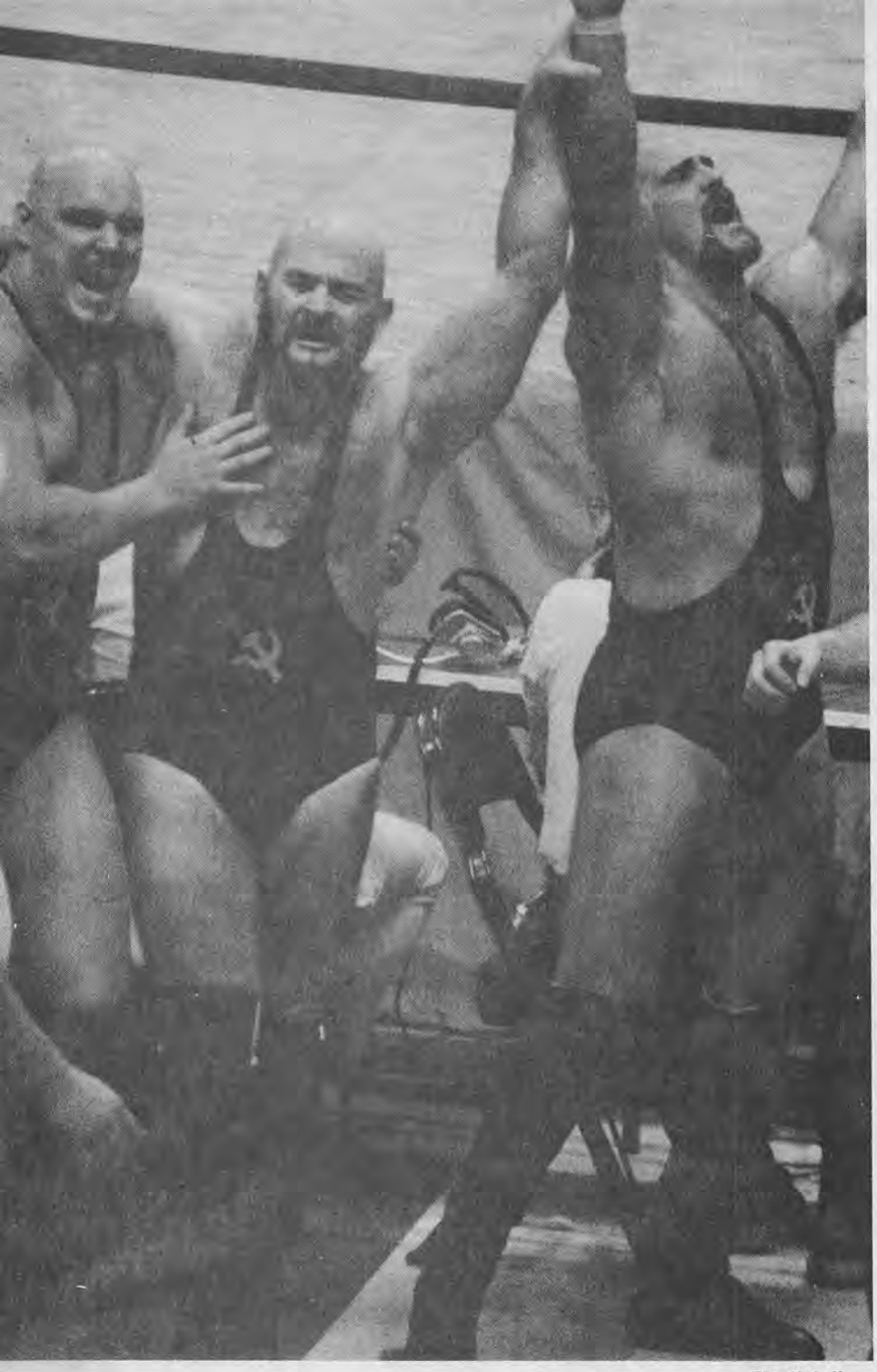
Once AWA tag team champs, Rick Morton (L) and Robert Gibson will never quit in their attempts to regain their crowns.

The Rock 'N' Roll Express had better wise up. Get smart, and get themselves a manager. If there's one single thing which prevents Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson from ever regaining the NWA world tag team title, it's that they don't have a manager. Even the British Bulldogs finally hired Captain Lou to guide their career. In fact, there's only a handful of successful tag teams who don't depend on someone else to play their routine.

With or without a championship, the R 'N' R Express are a great team. Yet, they drop their precious belts to the Midnight Express. Why?? It's certainly not because Eaton and 'Lover Boy' Condry are any better. The might be a bit stronger, but Gibson and Morton are twice as fast and fully-schooled. If anything, on the chessboard of wrestling Eaton and Condry are pawns. The real mastermind of the Midnight Express is their manager, Jim Cornette. The

Quick tags and plenty of teamwork made the Rock 'N' Roll Express great.

In Action!



The Koloffs.

R 'N' R Express needs a manager just as clever. Even more than a individual grappler, a tag team needs someone outside the ring to evaluate their moves and tactics.

A tag team member can't possibly watch his partner, watch his opponent, watch his opponent's partner, and their manager all at the same time. This mistake with the Rock 'N' Roll Express was a carry-over from their earlier success. When Ricky and Robert moved into the NWA, they evidently forgot this was the major leagues. What worked in the independents doesn't necessarily do well in the big-time world.

February 1983 was the start of something new and exciting for the fans in the Mid-South area. It was then that two extremely talented wrestlers, Robert Gibson and Ricky Morton, came together as the Rock 'N' Roll Express. Originally, Gibson and Morton had considered calling themselves "Rick 'N' Robert." But, as they entered the ring to the pulsating ELO's 'Rock Is King,' the team's name quickly changed. Both men came together after several years on their own. Ricky Morton began his career in Tennessee while Gibson set up camp in Oklahoma. Before teaming with Morton, Robert had partnered with brother Rickey to win both the Southeastern and Mid-South team honors.

Morton and Gibson held the Mid-South tag team championship for most of 1984. Night after night the Rock 'N' Roll Express gave the fans 110% Their closet rivals at the time were the Midnight Express. No doubt, the toughest match for either team was their Louisiana Superdome match on a scaffold. Sixteen feet above the ring, the two teams wrestled to a one-fall with no disqualification.

On Dec. 2, 1984, the team of Ted DiBiasse and Hercules Hernandez surprised everyone, beating the R 'N' R Express for the belts. Three weeks later, the Rock 'N' Roll Express regained their title on Dec. 22. Gibson and Morton continued to rule for approximately the next six months. Chavo and Hector Guerro beat them in a very questionable match. After this loss, Ricky and Robert decided to move on to the Mid-Atlantic territory. They captured the NWA world tag team title from Ivan and Nikita Koloff on July 7, 1985. The feud between the two teams led to a series of non-conclusive matches in almost every major US city. Then, on Oct. 9, the Russians regained their belts.

The Rock 'N' Roll Express emphatially stated they wouldn't take this defeat lying down. On Nov. 28, in Greensboro, NC, the Express were with their world belts.

As we go to press, Gibson and Morton are in hot pursuit of the Midnight Express. At a recent TV taping, they stormed after the Midnight boys and their manager, Jim Cornette. However, fans noticed something different; the R 'N' R Express were carrying tennis racquets. Morton and Gibson are intent on doing whatever necessary to get back their belts. Rather than racquets (which will only lead to disqualifications), the boys need a manager. WRESTLING EYE would like to recommend Dusty Rhodes.

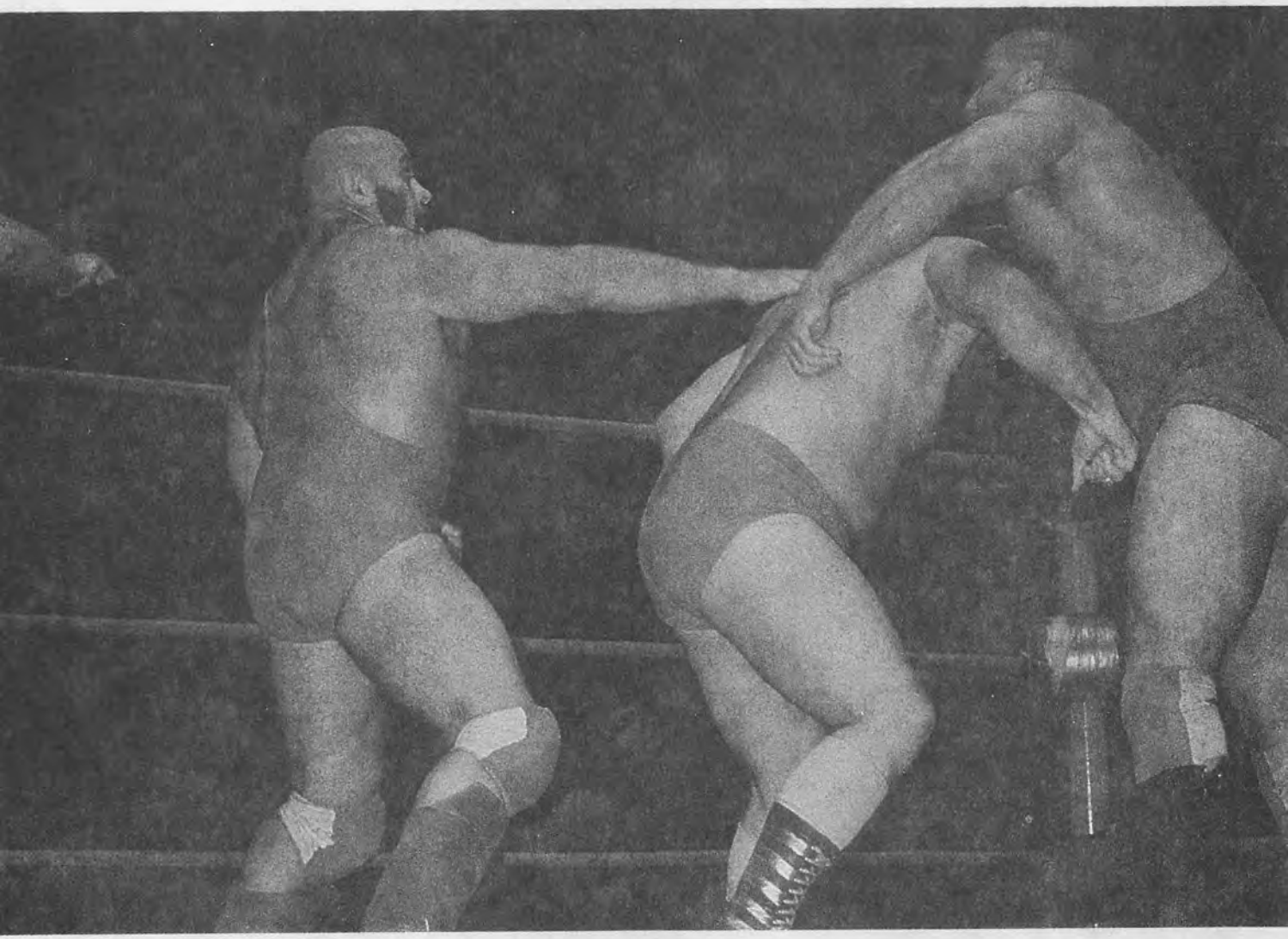
Aside from already being on their side, Dusty could offer them the benefit of his vast ring experience. We think he would be the best man for this high-risk job!

THE KOLOFFS

A 'RED MENACE'

Photos & Text by Dyane Kirkland

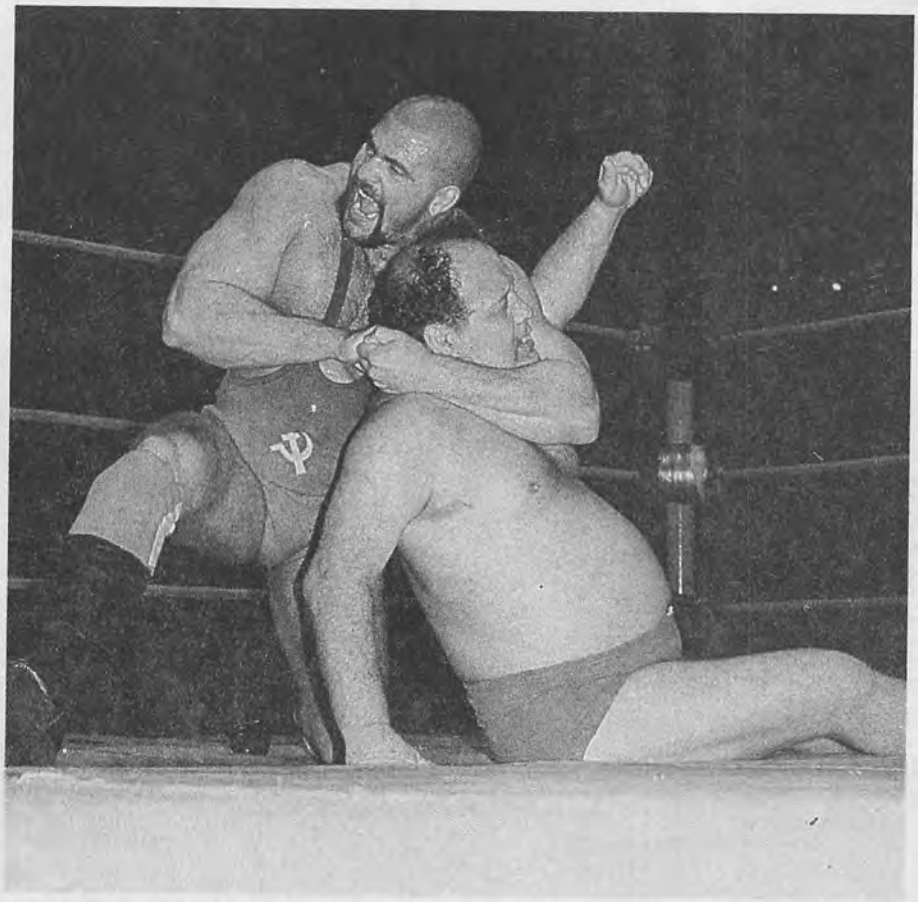
Can any team or single wrestler stand up to the challenge of Ivan, Nikita or Krusher Khrushchev?



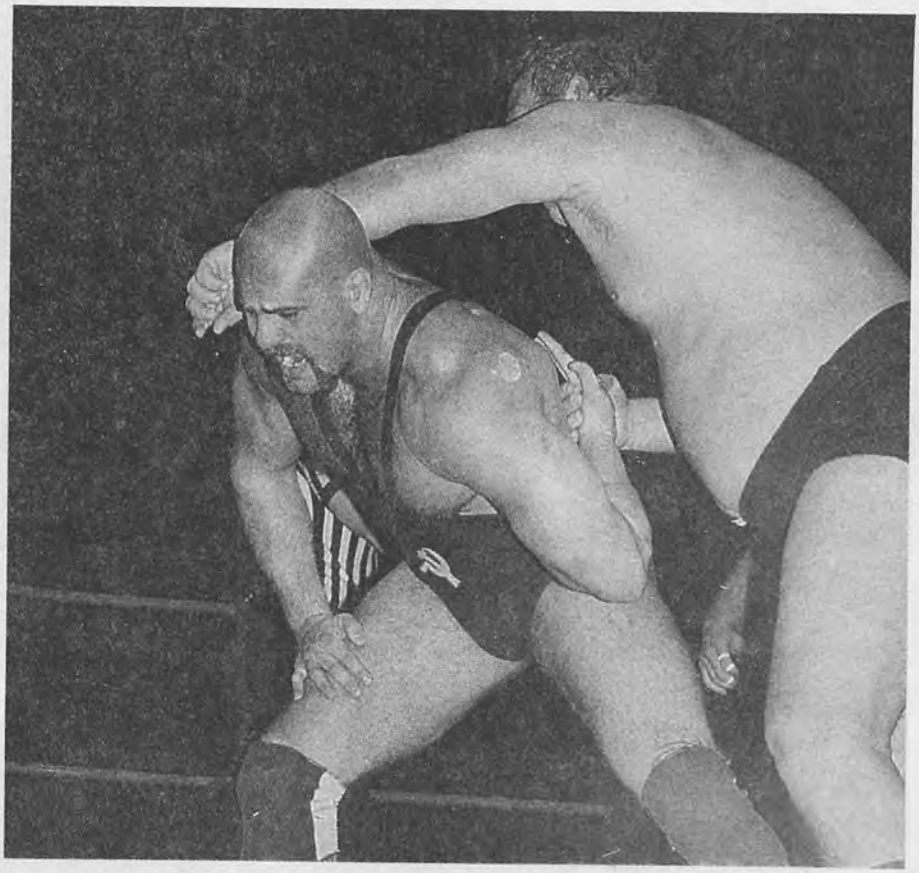
Starting in 1981, Ivan 'The Russian Bear' Koloff was always challenging fan favorites to his version of a 'Russian Chain Match'. These bloody affairs did not endear him to the fans, but neither did he earn the hoped-for titles, no matter how brutal his tactics. By the end of 1982, above the fine black and gold cossack coat he wore, Ivan's face became lined and weary. He began avoiding confrontations with the fans, and developed a shyness, a quiet and simple lifestyle almost totally secluded.

Fans began to see him as some mad Rasputin who came into the ring to maul his opponent, then retire to his cloister to meditate alone. Some almost felt sorry for him, as he actually looked lonely. He left Georgia in that same year, and the locals lost track of him. A year later, spectators at the Omni began to notice a strange man in their midst. He was tall, very muscular, very quiet. His hair was dark and straight, like a poor-fitting wig. His eyes had the bright wariness of a predatory bird. During the following months, when the Road Warriors were in their 'Golden Age' in Atlanta, this man never missed a match, he came in alone, always sitting with a good view of the ring. He spoke to no one - not even a smile for the girls attracted by his brooding good looks. He watched the Road Warriors intently as if committing their every move to memory. And he left the Omni, always alone.

The Road Warriors moved on, and shortly thereafter, Ivan Koloff returned to the Atlanta area with a surprise for the fans. Beside him, in Russian red, stood all 6'4" of his nephew, Nikita. Watching that telecast of World Championship Wrestling, some folks were hardly surprised to find that, if they men-



The powerful arms of Nikita strangle Arn Anderson.



Not to fear, Nikita will power out of this hammerlock.

tally put straight dark hair on this bald young giant, they could match him to the young man from the Omni.

The fiendish cleverness of his unusual education may be part of the reason the fans immediately dubbed Nikita 'The Russian Nightmare'. He's not only a fine, strong wrestler, but he has a good memory for his opponent's moves and counters. With that information stored in his 'memory banks,' Nikita is virtually unbeatable. Considering all the size and power of Nikita Koloff, he moves gracefully and lightly on his feet. But the real, driving force behind him-in tag-team work or in single matches - is not political, social, or even monetary considerations. It's IVAN KOLOFF.

Ivan is a tough competitor, true, but he is neither a big man, nor a young man. His many wins depended on cunning, the weapon of the smaller person. But with Nikita at his command, Ivan has his cunning backed by size and power. What a team!

To fill out a spot for a 3-man team, the perfect choice was an American exile in his own country (and of his own choosing), Krusher Khrushchev. His imposing size, backed by disillusionment with American ideals, make him a volatile partner. The team quickly catapulted to the NWA World 3-Man Tag Team Championships. Although the 3 Russians worked, trained and lived together for a year, Krusher is no longer with the Koloffs. Despite the lip-service the Koloffs give to 'Americanisms', even a fool can see why they're in America (Living like Americans, I might add...), and not in a big rush to go back to Russia. Certainly, they wouldn't be paid as well, or speak so freely. And the Koloffs covet American money and possessions, just like the weak Americans they put down.

The future of the 'Red Menace' is uncertain except for one thing—it will be in America.

WRESTLING EYE

The older Koloff may have given in more and more to 'western decadence'. He does love the attention of American press and television.

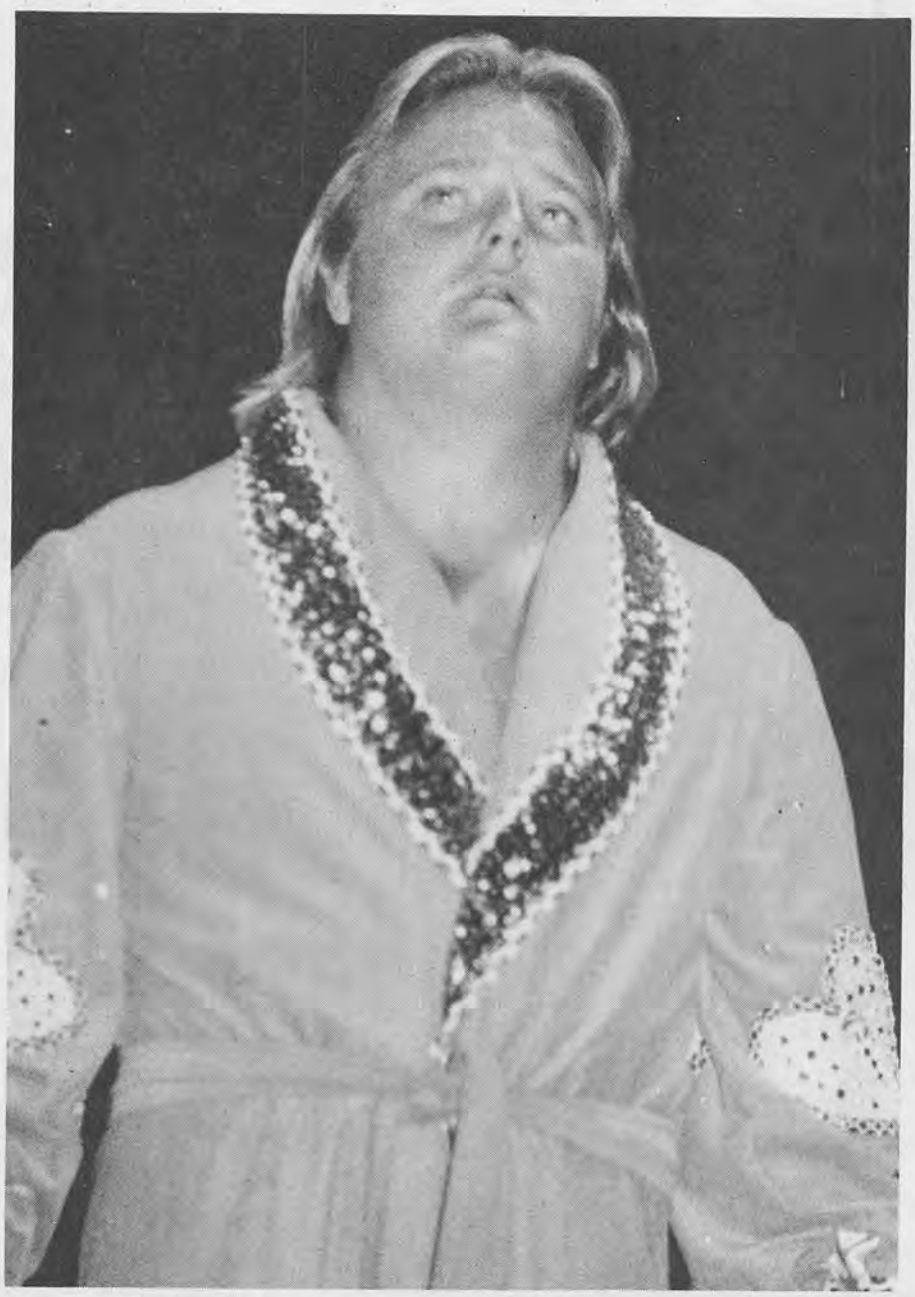
Nikita studies the 'Road Warriors' for months, before actually wrestling either Hawk or Animal.

THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

Maybe Randy Savage is the Intercontinental Champ, but he'll never win an award from MS. magazine. Anyone who has caught sight of Randy and his manager, Elizabeth, surely has to flinch at the treatment handed out to her by Savage. This isn't funny, nor is it in any way entertaining. Let's get back to wrestling and knock off these antics... A recent article in Rock Island, Illinois QUAD TIMES reported Raven Da La Croix, an actress, is engaged to wrestler Greg 'The Hammer' Valentine.

It seems that the WWF may be an $85 million-dollar business this year. Credit Vince McMahon, Jr. with the foresight not to concentrate on wrestling alone. It goes to prove that if you can sell enough notebooks, dolls, toy rings, cartoon shows, etc., you too can gross $85 million. But then it does take quite a bit of marketing acumen and guts to even attempt it. It does the Phantom's heart good to see that the Stu Hart promotions have started up again in Calgary. The Calgary promotion under Hart was, in the Phantom's opinion, the best on the North American continent. And from what I've heard so far, the lapse of time hasn't hurt the quality of the wrestling. The Hart promotions have also served through the years as a springboard for British wrestlers to work on this continent. Such stars as the Dynamite Kid, Davey Boy Smith, Al Hayes and Les Thornton made their North American debuts here.

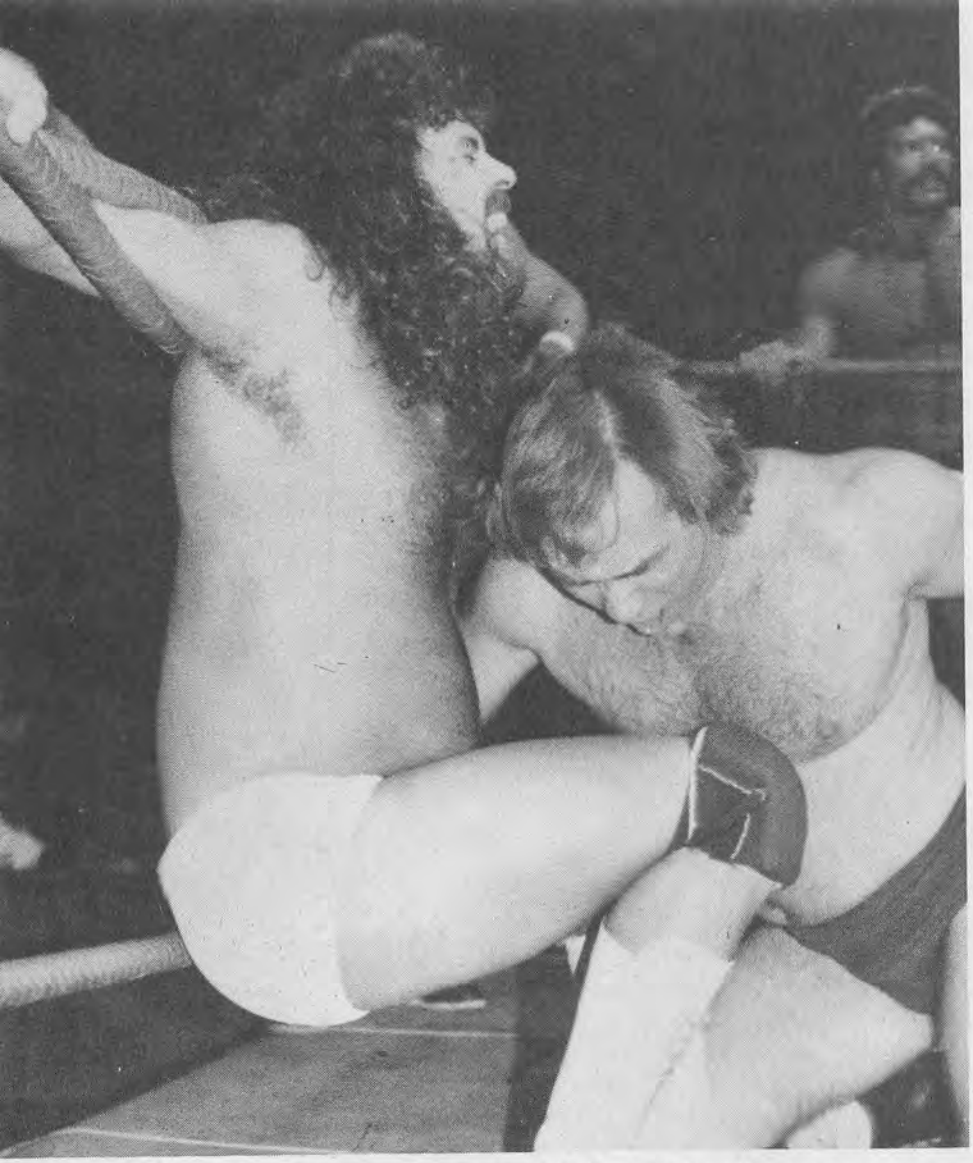
How many of you out there knew that Randy Savage played professional baseball? Well, it's true; he worked as a catcher in the St. Louis Cardinals organization. In 1973, for instance, he hit .250 for Orangeburg in the Western Carolinas League (Class A) and .344 for Sarasota in the Gulf Coast League (also Class A). Now he comes back as a bonafide star. Not bad; see where hard work and desire will get you?



Midwest newspapers are reporting Greg Valentine's engagement to an actress.

Well, country fans, it looks as if Cousin Junior has been recalled to the farm and is replaced by Cousin Luke. Rumored to be on the way to sign up for the First Family of wrestling is John Harris—the 7'8" Hillbilly... Jumping Joe Savoldi of Florida and Northwest fame is the son of former wrestler Angelo Savoldi... Bob Roop should give up this Maya Singh act and go back to being Bob Roop... WHAT GOES ON HERE? For anyone who follows the AWA, the sudden arrival of young David Sammartino must have come as a real shock!

Here we have the son and father working for rival promotions. AS WRESTLING EYE #3 reported, David was very disenchanted with



The Phantom predicts Larry Zbyszko will resume his feud with David Sammartino. Both men are now wrestling in the AWA territory.

For the time being, Johnny Walker is under the mask of Mr. Wrestling II.

the treatment in the WWF. Part of it has to do with the fact that Bruno never wanted David to become a professional wrestler in the first place. In David's last match for the WWF, he lost to Ron Shaw in under a minute via submission. Surely, in the AWA, Young Sammartino will feud with Larry Zbyszko.

The big shock of the wrestling world had to have been the recent dropping of the title by Wendi Richter to The Spider in Madison Square Garden last November. Although Wendi later unmasked The Spider as Fabulous Moolah (in what seemed to be the the worst-kept secret of the night, by the way, judging from the reaction of the fans around ringside), nevertheless, The Spider/Moolah was allowed to keep the belt. What was amazing about this bout was that it was so anti-climatic. There was no pre-match buildup on the television interviews, nor were we treated to the presence of Cyndi Lauper at ringside. In fact, the victory of The Spider seemed almost an afterthought. This gives rise to the persistent rumors of Wendi quitting the ring since she, married to promoter Hugo Savinovitch, may be in a family way.

LAWSUIT DEPT.- For you legalbeagles out there who follow this kind of stuff, here's the latest: Kimala is being sued by a fan in St. Louis, Road Warrior 'Animal' is also being sued by a fan, and in the weirdest turn of them all, Dusty Rhodes is being sued by one of his ex-wrestlers. Steve Diblasio, who worked Florida during the early part of the decade as Big Daddy, is suing Florida Championship Wrestling, and Dusty Rhodes in particular, for damages which resulted from a career-ending injury suffered in a Florida ring. Diblasio charges that Rhodes, who was the booker of his matches, was negligent in his duties and this led to Big Daddy's injury. It's alleged that if Rhodes had performed his duties correctly, then no injury would have resulted. Diablasio also gives Rhodes' true name as Virgil Riley Runnels Jr. For those of you who follow Georgia Championship and Mid-Atlantic Championship wrestling, look for that name on the closing credits as producer.

WRESTLING EYE CANDID PIC

THE BARBARIAN IN ACTION

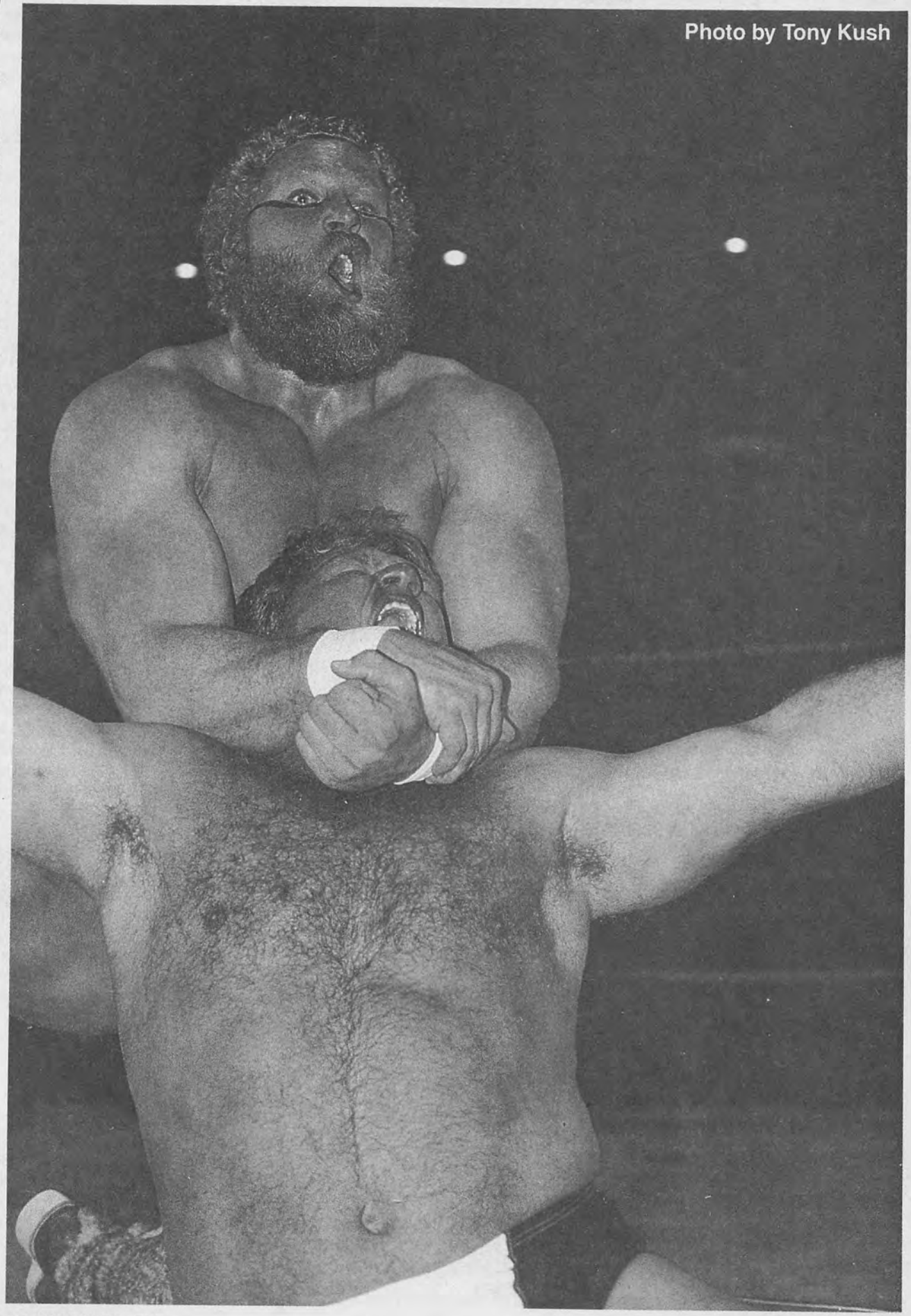


Photo by Tony Kush

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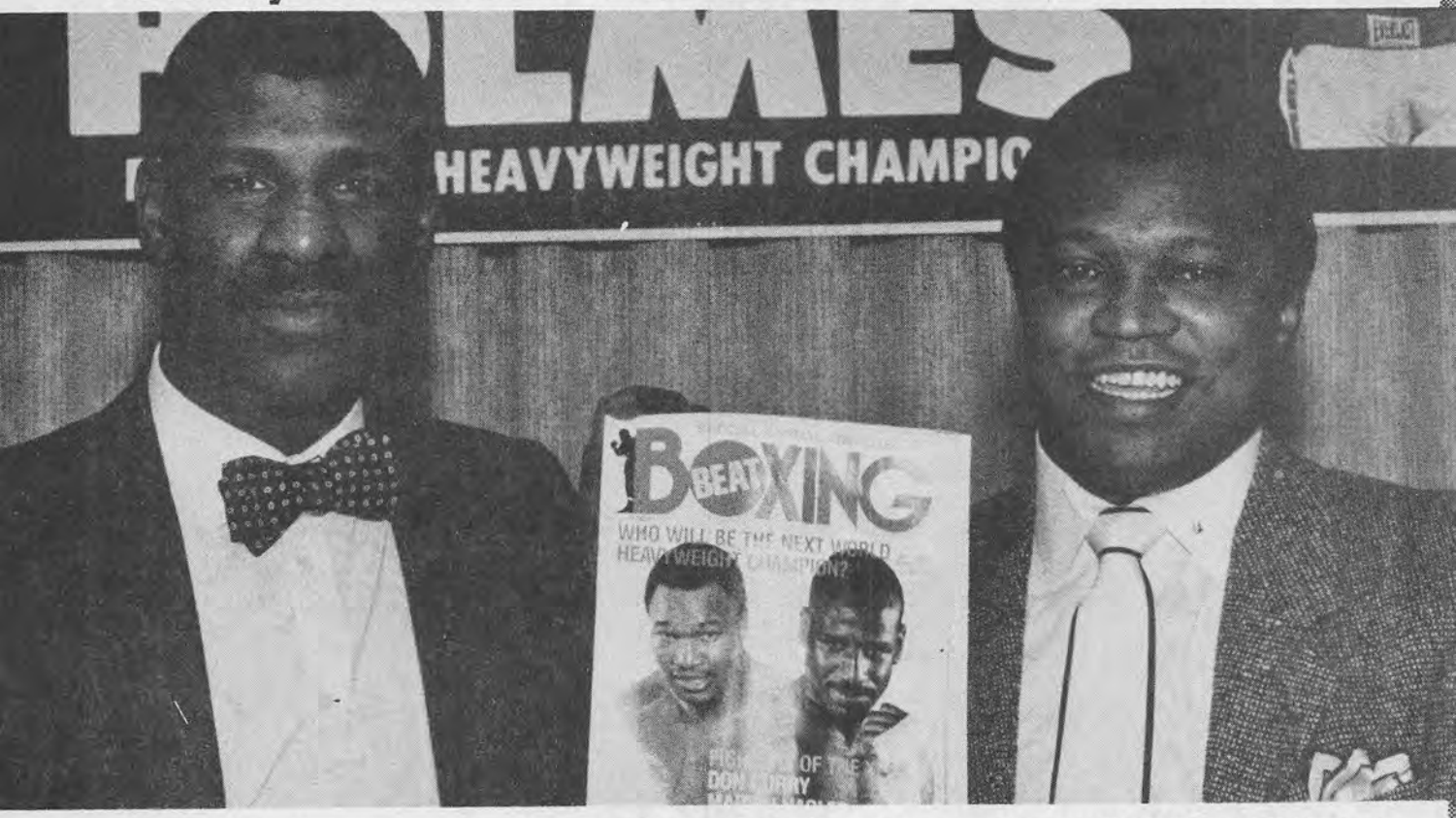

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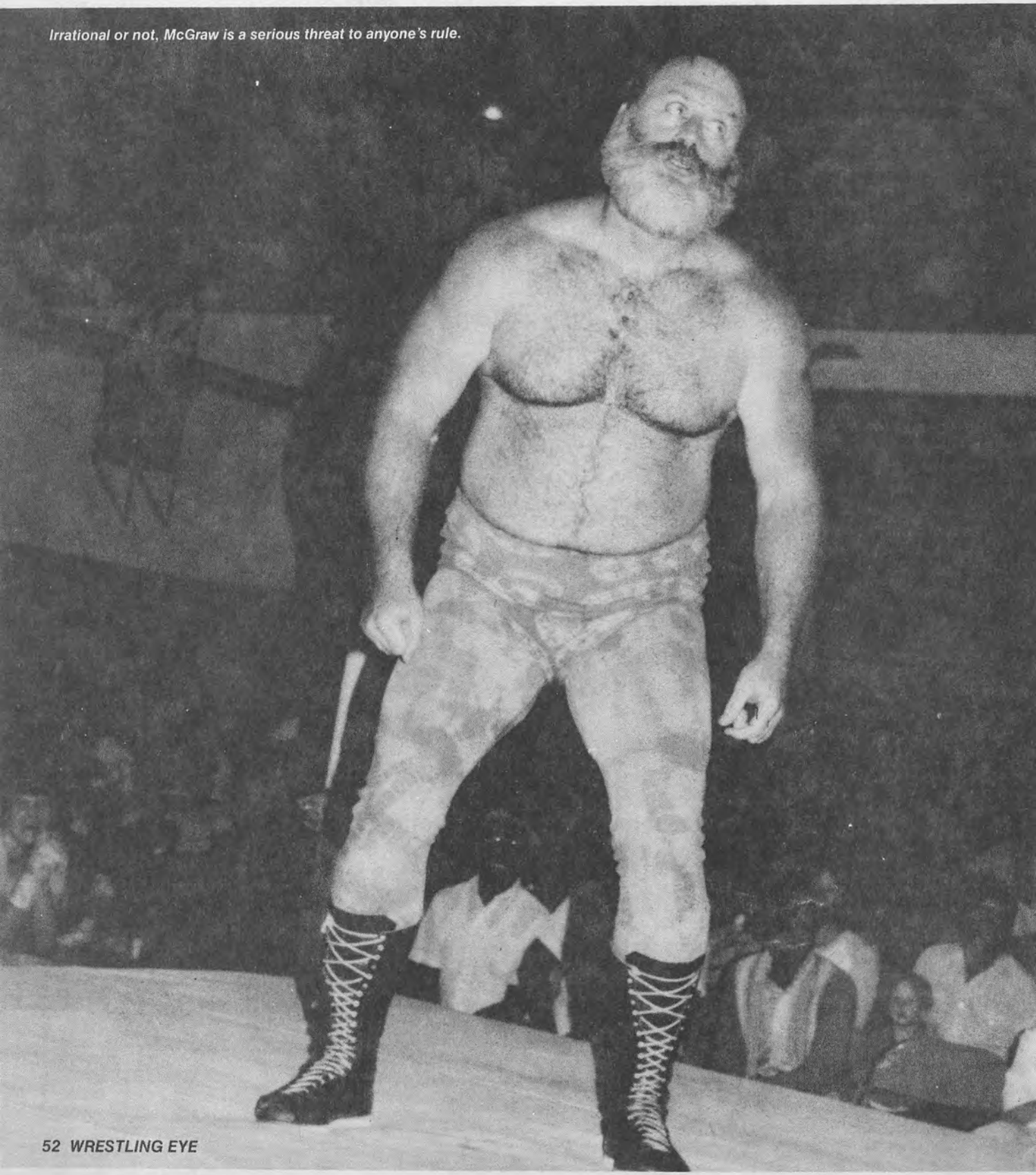
BUGSY McGRAW

THE MAN RIC FLAIR FEARS!

Photos and Text by Gene Gordon



Irrational or not, McGraw is a serious threat to anyone's rule.

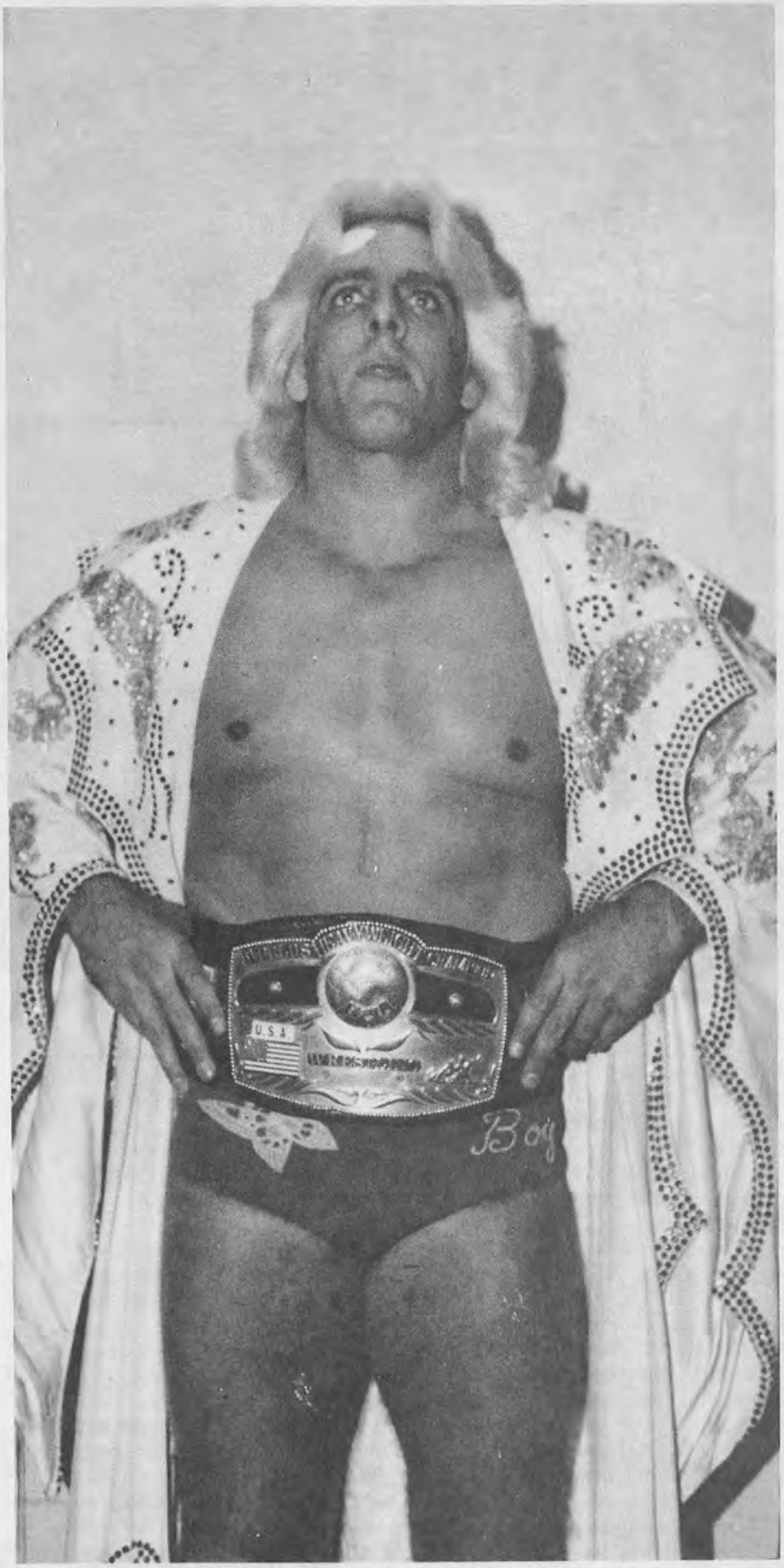
The frantic pace of being NWA world champion makes Ric Flair prefer opponents he's familiar with. Why look for trouble with an unknown quantity? When Flair goes for the abdominal stretch, he wants to be sure it'll work. With most challengers, the champ knows exactly what to expect. Wahoo McDaniel—tough, but traditional. Magnum T.A.—strong and capable; however, very predictable. Harley Race—clever, but also old fashioned. Rhodes is routine,' says Rick with a yawn.

The one man that makes Ric Flair nervous is the greying grizzly Bugsy McGraw. His erratic behavior puzzles the world champ. All the 'Whoa s' in the world wouldn't help him solve this puzzle of a contender. Unlike the others, he can't outguess 'Nutty' Bugsy McGraw. Of course, Flair denies it. 'Baby, you gotta be joking,' was Ric's retort. 'I've beaten the best—Von Erichs, TA, Rhodes and Race. You honestly think Grandpa McGraw would give me, the world champ, any problems? He'd die of fright just climbing up the ring stairs. I say he's too old to be wrestling in the National Wrestling Alliance. Bugsy's not a has-been, he's a never-was!'

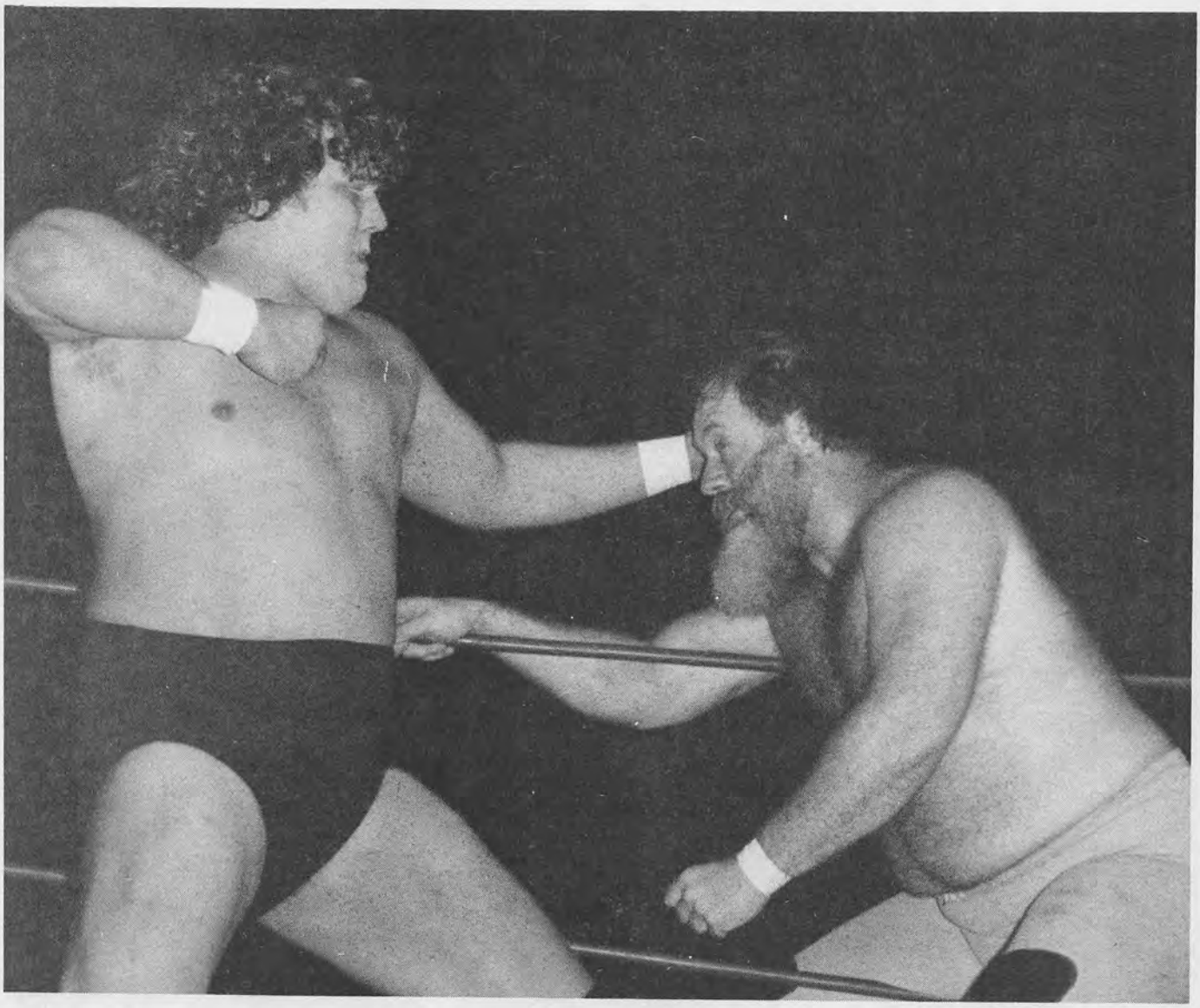
Unlike the unruly Ric, there isn't a malicious bone in McGraw, even if the NWA champ was behind the plot to get Bugsy out of the Alliance. Everyone thinks it was Percival Pringle 11, but bet your bottom dollar Ric Flair had his hand in it. "Mr. Flair is a real smart wrestler. If this was amateur wrestling or the Olympics, he'd pin me in two or three seconds. Fortunately, this ain't high school. It's the real world and Mr. Flair better be careful."

Amazing, isn't it? The world champ afraid of this good-natured gentleman!

Still, Bugsy McGraw is a tough customer for Ric. Bugsy is almost fifty, and Flair has always been hard-pressed by older wrestlers. Their years of ring knowledge gives them an edge over Ric's treachery. Any rotten trick he pulls, they've seen many times before. Burly Bugsy has not only been around, but he's abnormally strong. His well-muscled physique is solid. Against the champ, his broad torso would be rigid and



Was the NWA heavyweight champ behind the plot to chase Bugsy McGraw out of the Alliance?



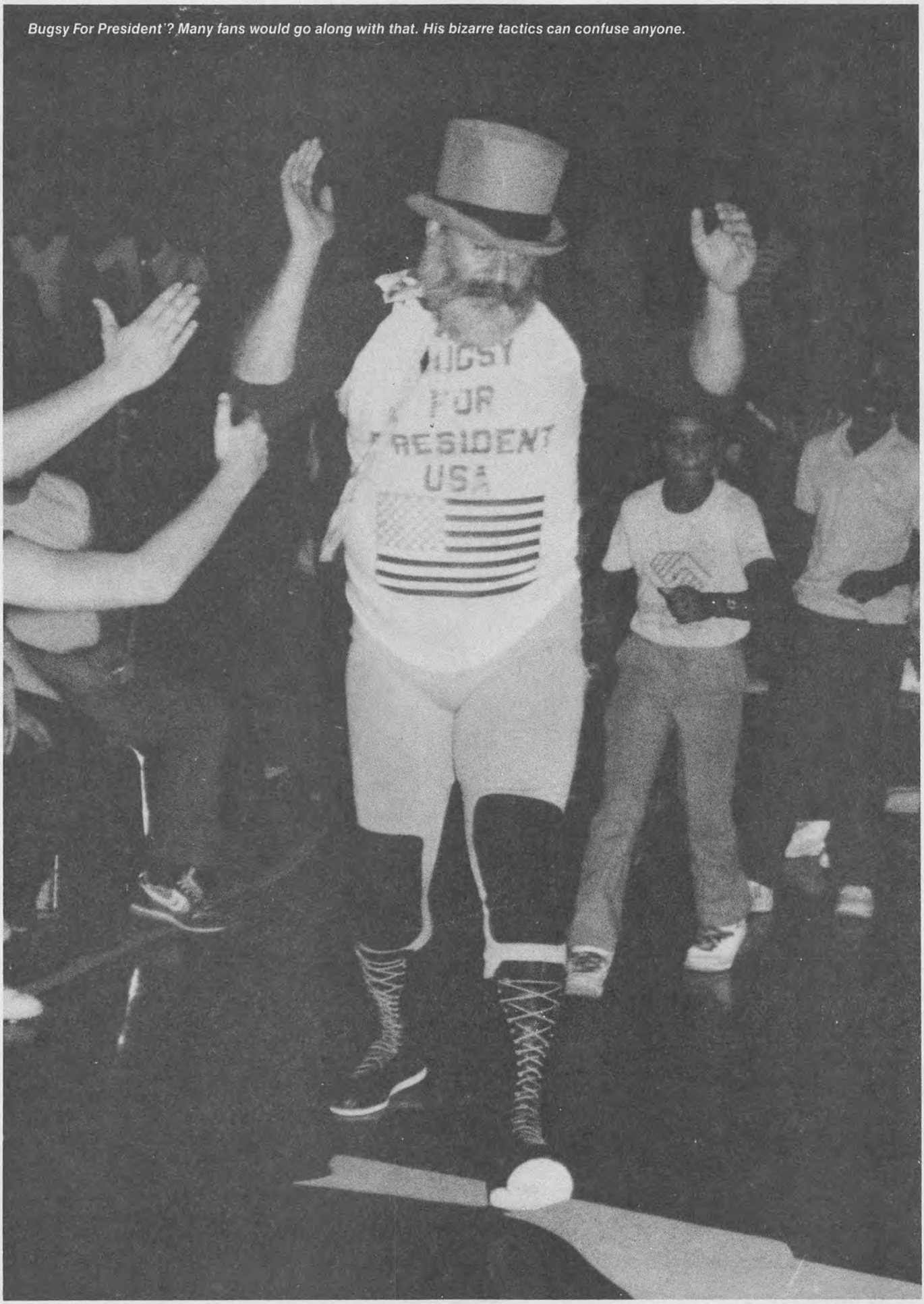
Terry Gordy vs. Bugsy McGraw

unbending. You aren't going to find too many people who can slam McGraw around. Whereas McDaniel and Race have weakened at crucial moments, Bugsy would be strong. Moreover, his bizarre wrestling tactics would confuse Flair.

If Ric isn't concerned with the squat McGraw, then why did he have him chased from the NWA? Working behind the scenes, mischievously, Flair had Bugsy bounced. "No way," denied 'Nature Boy'. "I was only worried about him getting hurt. You know, he needs psychiatric care. I just pointed it out to certain promoters and they did the rest." (Perhaps those arena owners were doubtful Ric would defend the belt in those areas where McGraw was still wrestling for them.) "Someone has to look out for senior citizens like McGraw. If anything, Bugsy should thank me for being so thoughtful."

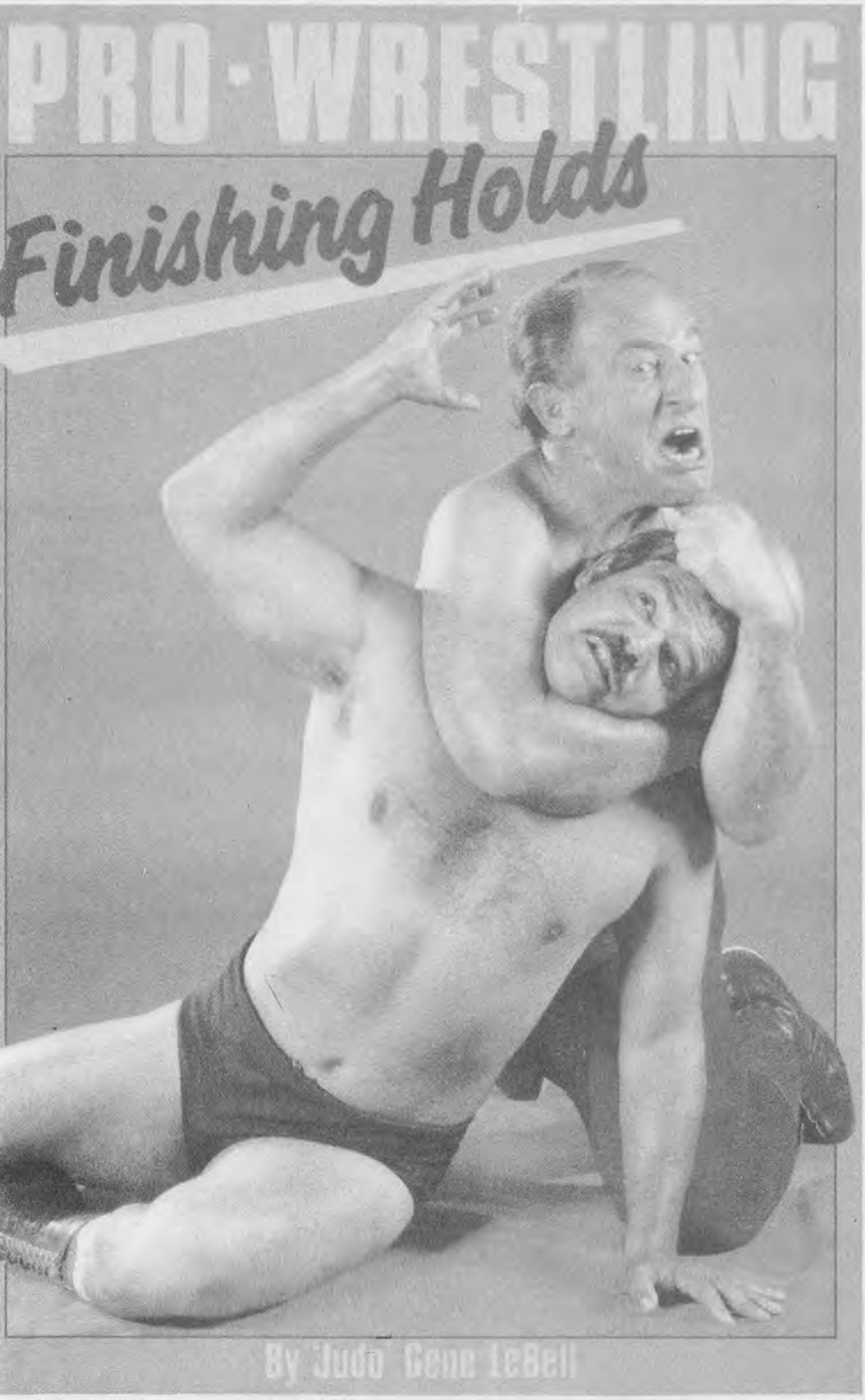
'I'm sorry he didn't just retire. I hear he's in Florida, wrestling for an independent outfit.'

Yes, Bugsy McGraw is wrestling and he's winning too. Irrational or not, the power is there. Luke Graham, who thought he could earn a name by retiring McGraw, agrees with that. "He's a nut and very dangerous. A man without all his senses shouldn't be that strong. Sometimes he doesn't realize what he's doing." Inevitably, Bugsy McGraw will slip past Flair's security wall of promoters and back into the NWA. After that, Ric might be the one retiring.



Bugsy For President'? Many fans would go along with that. His bizarre tactics can confuse anyone.

MEDIA REPORT

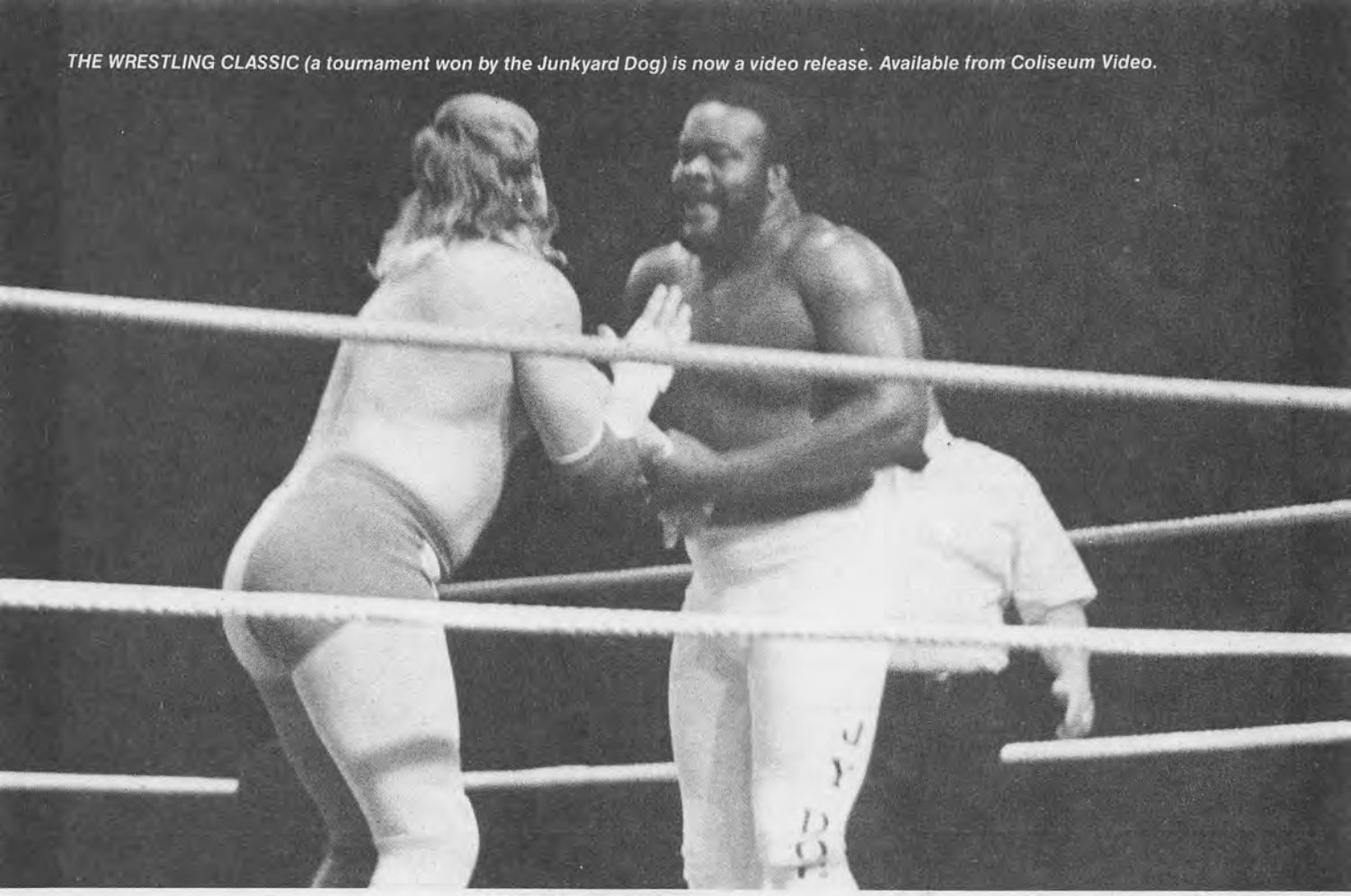


A great book at a nice price. Only $10.95

LJN TOYS sees no let-up in the wrestling dolls craze. Though the figures aren't completely in for 1985, two years ago LJN sold about 3 million Hulk Hogan dolls. Last Christmas, the newer dolls—the Junkyard Dog, Brutus Beefcake and King Kong Bundy—sold better than the Hulkster, Sheik and Andre the Giant. Of course, the older dolls had already been out a year or two...BLOOD BATH is the video tape hardcore wrestling fans have been waiting for. Jampacked with ninety minutes of fast moving mat-excitement, this tape soars above the competition.

The majority of BLOOD BATH's eight matches depicts acts of Barbarism not found in mainstream wrestling videos. As we watch Mexico's El Diablo (responsible for two deaths in the ring) split his foe's head open with the timekeeper's bell, we're reminded just how ugly this sport can get. Later during the tape we're forced to stomach one of the most sadistic and brutal acts of the past decade. Florida's Mr. Wrestling literally butcher an opponent beyond recognition. Such is the kind of violence found in BLOOD BATH. You may be shocked and fascinated or horrified, but you won't be bored!

Mr. Patrick Premo of Allegany, NY, sent in this review of the current top wrestling table games on the market...WWF WRESTLING SUPERSTARS GAME (Milton Bradley)—the roll of the dice is the primary determinant. The packaging and components are first class. GRAPPLER (Charles Stewart)—Unlike the other games, this one features AMATEUR rather than professional wrestlers. This is one of the best sports simulation games that I have ever seen. Strategy and realism are the by-words of this game. SUPERSTAR WRESTLING (John Harwood)—this is the original wrestling game and it's been around for ten years. Prices very depending upon how many wrestlers you want to buy. Another 50 wrestlers are about to be published soon. This is a fun game



THE WRESTLING CLASSIC (a tournament won by the Junkyard Dog) is now a video release. Available from Coliseum Video.

and the WWF. THE WRESTLING CLASSIC ($39.95)—features the 16-man elimination tournament and a title match between Hulk Hogan and Rowdy Roddy Piper. The tournament between Muraco, Randy Savage, the Bulldogs, Orton, Orndorff, the Sheik and the Junkyard Dog is worth the price alone...THE WWF'S AMAZING MANAGERS ($59.95)—spotlights those crazy characters on the sidelines. Captain Lou, Cyndi Lauper, Elizabeth, Freddie Blassie and Jimmy Hart are all included... WRESTLING'S COUNTRY BOYS ($59.95)—features Hillbilly Jim, Uncle Elmer, Rowdy Roddy Piper (who isn't a country boy), 'Big' John Studd and Counsin Jr.

Great new book out on wrestling! PRO-WRESTLING FINISHING HOLDS (Pro-Action Publishing) is more than just a light-hearted attempt to cash in on the current wrestling craze. Author Gene LeBell knows everything there is to know about the sport, and is willing to share his vast knowledge with the readers. You can literally pick up the book at any page and see the entire application on either one page or on a spread. Thoughtful to the limit, 'Judo' Gene doesn't want you to have to wrestle with the book too. It was Mr. LeBell's desire to try and create movement in the mind's eye to the still photos. These holds do work! The book is available through national distribution, or you can write: PRO-ACTION PUBLISHING, 1717 N. Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

that offers realism, tag teams, steel cages, battle royals and much more. The best feature of this game is that a periodic NEWSLETTER is published.

Three more videos have been released by COLISEUM VIDEO

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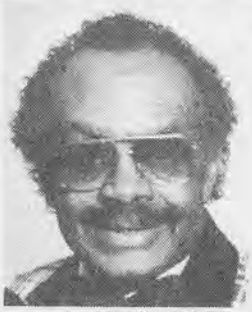

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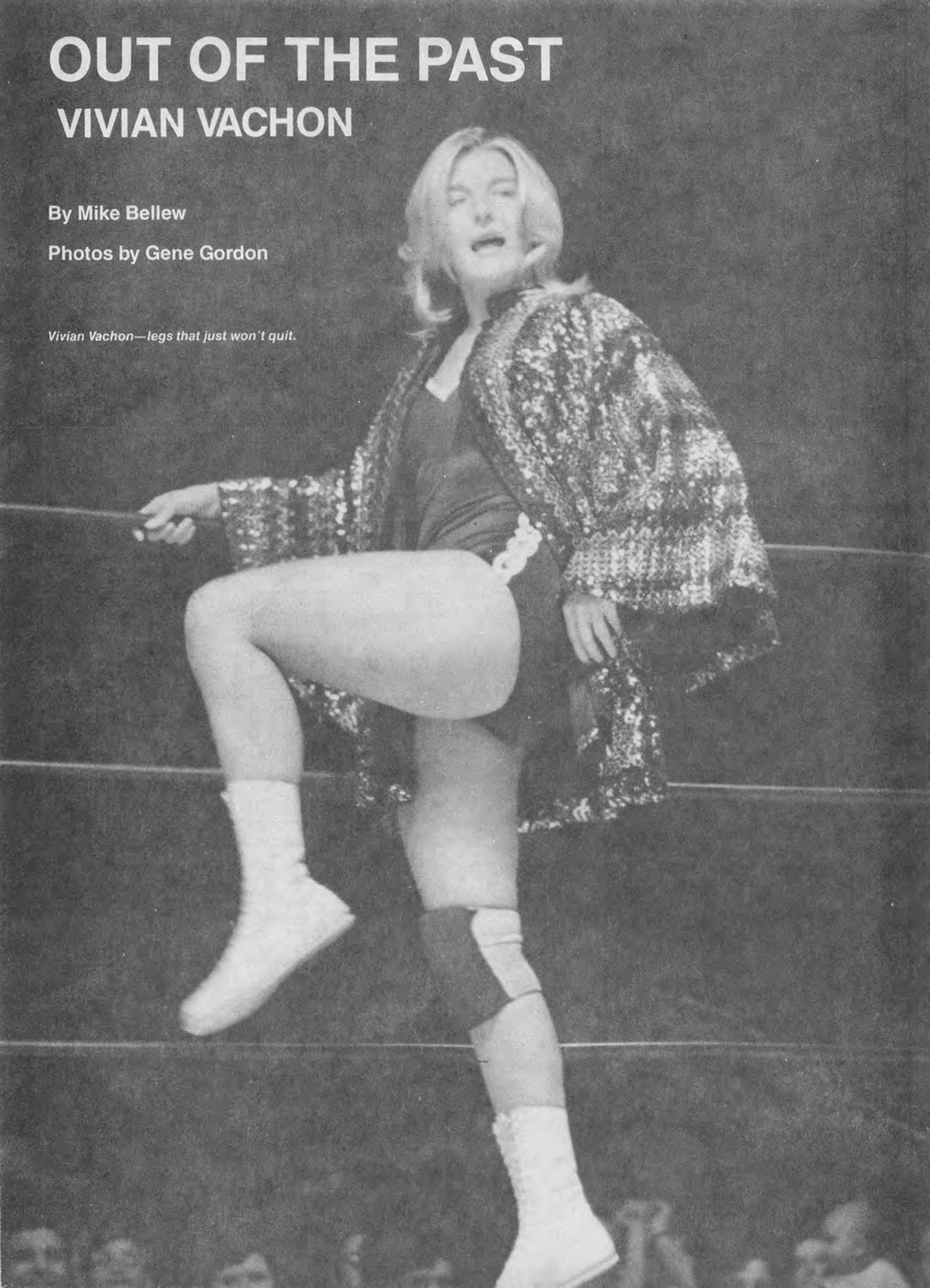
OUT OF THE PAST

VIVIAN VACHON

By Mike Bellew

Photos by Gene Gordon



Vivian Vachon—legs that just won't quit.

She was the 'Wendi Richter of the Seventies'. A breath of feminine fresh air in the often stuffy, masculine atmosphere of professional wrestling. Attractive, with legs that just wouldn't quit, Vivian was a change of pace for fans familiar with the Donna Christanello's and Paula Kaye's of that era. Her flaxen beauty was hard to describe. And it was just as hard to imagine her relationship with brothers Paul and 'Mad Dog' Vachon.

"When you grow up with two protective brothers like 'Mad Dog' and the 'Butcher', you don't get out much," said Vivian in a 1974 interview. "My brothers were very careful about who I went out with and what time they brought me home. When they started to travel, Paul decided I needed to learn how to protect myself. He taught me how to wrestle just in case my dates got too fresh with their hands." According to Miss Vachon, her two brothers were sweethearts. "I have two wonderful brothers—at least, with me they're wonderful."

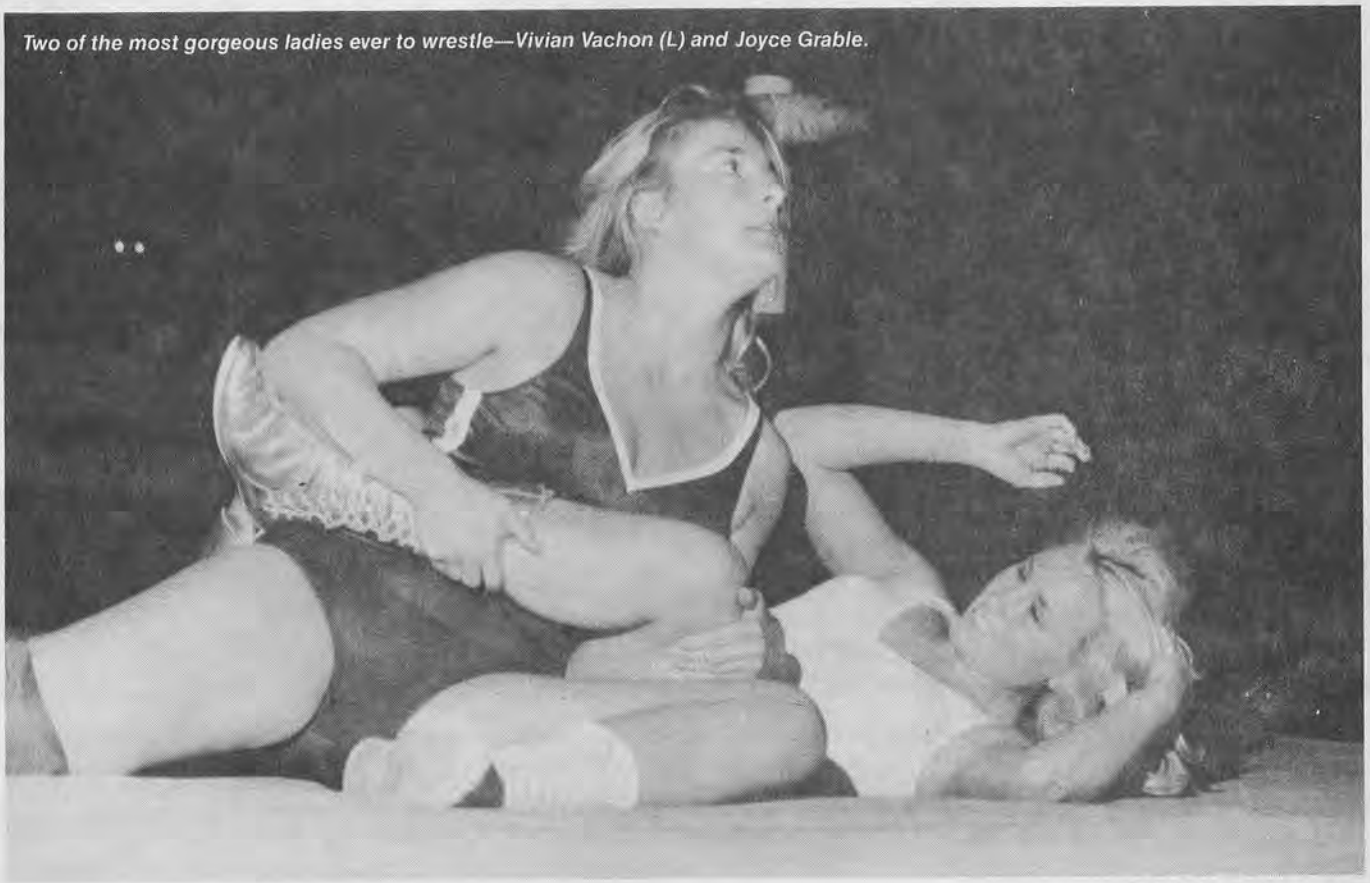
With help from Paul and 'Mad Dog', Vivian remained an independent wrestler. She signed with no one promoter, and traveled all over the world. At 5'7" she was taller than most ladies, and used her additional inches to the maximum. Her long legs were perfect for head scissors and dropkicks. A sports doctor in Canada once clocked a dropkick by Vivian at 'over 70 mph.' In her only crack at the Fabulous Moolah's belt, Vivian was pinned in Montreal (1970). Newspaper reports of the match had Vivian controlling most of the bout. Her non-stop dropkicks had Moolah on the run. The champ offered no counter-attack and was cut on the right eyebrow.

A missed flying bodypress spilled Vachon outside the ring. Seeing her moment at hand, Moolah pulled the dazed Canadian back into the ring and gained the pin with a reverse-cradle. The world champ never again agreed to face this tough-as-nails challenger.

"Winning the world championship was not important to Vivian," recalls former woman wrestler Kitty Adams. "She just enjoyed the competition and the traveling. She was always very friendly, and foreign languages were no problem for her. Vivian spoke French, English and some Japanese and German. Being world champ would have interfered with the fun she was having. Her brother 'Mad Dog' held the AWA world championship, and she saw the hectic pace he was under. But, I think she would have been a great champ." Wrestling magazines of that period called Vachon the Queen of the Mats. "Reporters were always following her. Sometimes they tried to dig up dirt on her and us other girls. No one ever had anything bad to say about Vivian. She was like Doris Day, I guess."

Joyce Grable, a top star in her day, described Vivian as a very talented wrestler. "I used a lot of aerial movements to confuse my opponents. Vivian was one of the few people who could match my dropkicks and flying body presses. When we wrestled each other, we spent very little time on the mat. After each match I wanted to wrestle her again, it was that kind of challenge. Vivian was a credit to the sport of women's wrestling."

At the height of her career Vivian married wrestler Buddy Wolfe. Today, dropkicks and armbars are things of the past. Younger fans have never heard of her, and older fans hardly remember her. But in the 1970's, Vivian Vachon set the wrestling world on its ear.



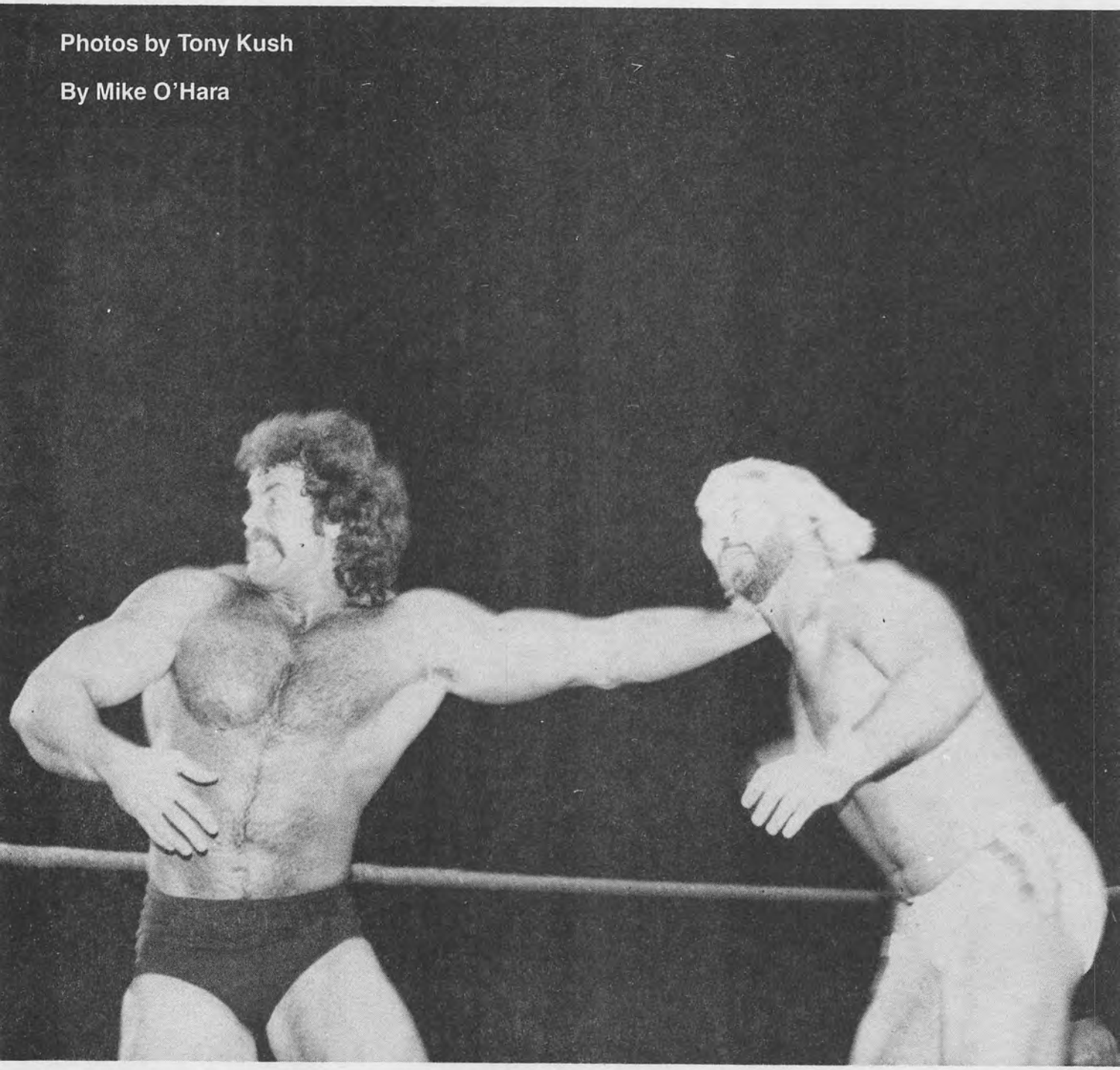
Two of the most gorgeous ladies ever to wrestle—Vivian Vachon (L) and Joyce Grable.

SCOTT HALL & CURT HENNIG

THE BEST OF THE NEW BREED

Photos by Tony Kush

By Mike O'Hara



Rough and ready Scott Hall sends Steve Regal flying across the ring. Greg Gagne believes Hennig and Hall are the 'perfect tag team.'

Regal has a temperate hold on Hall. Scott & Curt won the belts in Albuquerque, New Mexico

WRESTLING EYE

SCOTT HALL

He enters the ring devoid of all the pomp and circumstance that surrounds most in his profession. A look of determination is etched in his chiselled face as he prepares to do battle. He is considered by his peers a rookie, an entry level gladiator, and he knows in his heart that he must win the admiration as well as the respect of both his fans and foes. It is a time for Scott Hall to prove himself, and the powerful young man is doing a fine job of it. Even with his 6'8" frame and 280 lbs. of solid muscle, he has no easy task ahead of him as he has been thrown to the veteran lions of the American Wrestling Association.

Although he has been wrestling for slightly over a year, this is Scott's first opportunity to compete solo. He made his initial debut as a very successful member of a tag team combination known as the American Starship. Scott wrestled under the moniker of "The Coyote", while his partner used the ring name of "The Hawk." Many of you are familiar with the "Hawk" as he now grapples under his real name, Dan Spivey.

The Starship soared above much of their competition in the Mid-Atlanta area; however, they depended primarily upon their strength and size to win most of their matches against their smaller foes. It was obvious, though, that they needed to polish their raw talents and this could only be accomplished by meeting a variety of the very best in the business. By proving their wrestling talents they could ascend to the very top of the rankings.

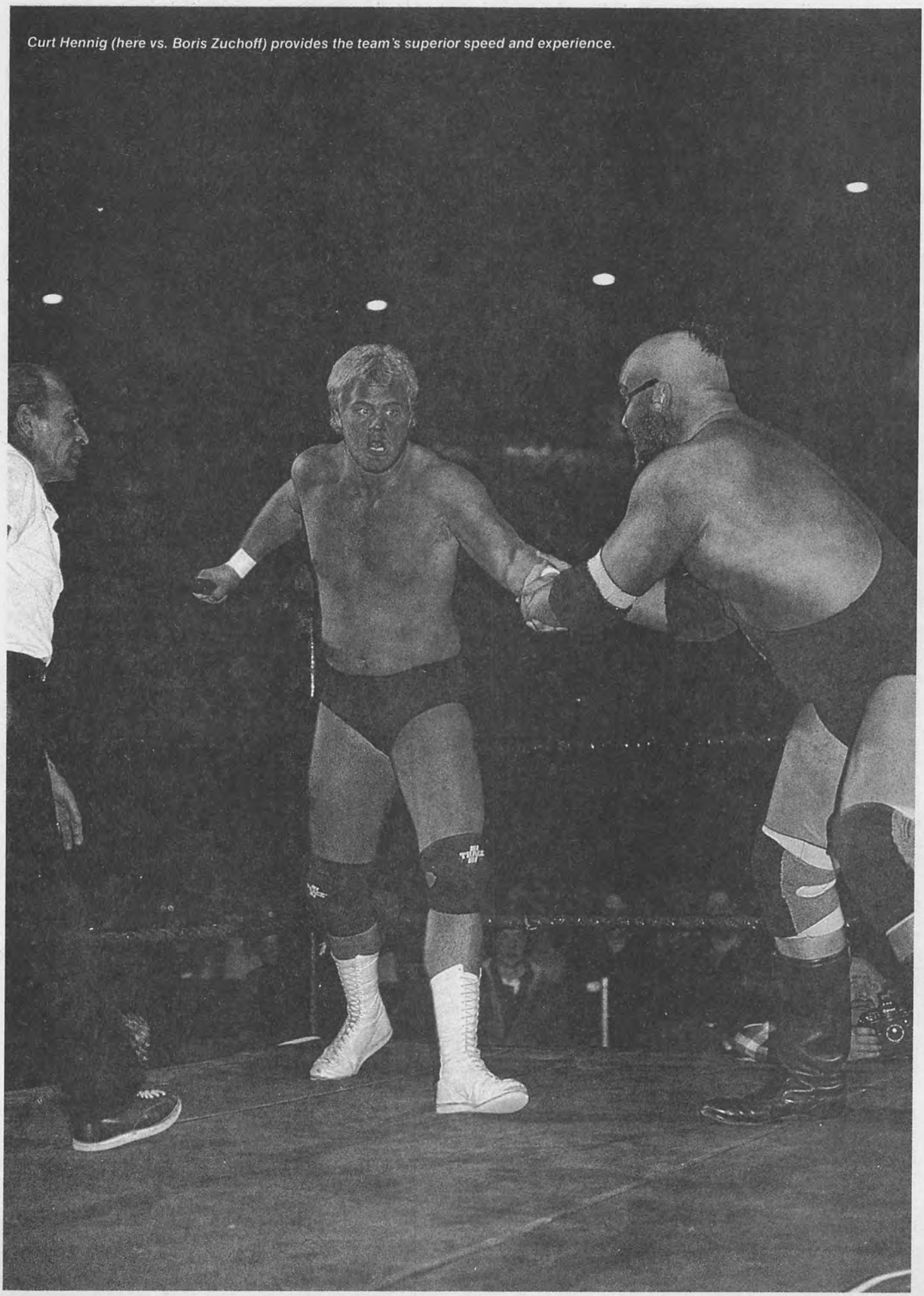
It was on their move to the Central States area that Hall and Spivey became more interested in single competition. They met a variety of seasoned pros while in the area, both in single and tag team action, but the hunger to succeed as individuals overcame them and they eventually went their separate ways.

Spivey was approached by the WWF promotion while Scott Hall caught the eye of former wrestling great and AWA honcho, Verne Gagne. Both men agree that they made the right decisions and have no regrets about their current status in the wrestling world.

Scott made a smashing debut as a mystery partner to Greg Gagne and Curt Hennig in a televised six man tag team contest. From that moment on, there was no looking back for the fast rising newcomer, and the fans immediately took to the BIG man in a BIG way!

All the AWA superstars are quite taken with Mr. Hall and his great potential, and the wrestlers are quick to point out his strengths and weaknesses

"I believe that this man has more potential than Hulk Hogan! We took the Hulk and polished his skills and I see even bigger things for Scott," beams Greg Gagne on his father's latest find.



Curt Hennig (here vs. Boris Zuchoff) provides the team's superior speed and experience.

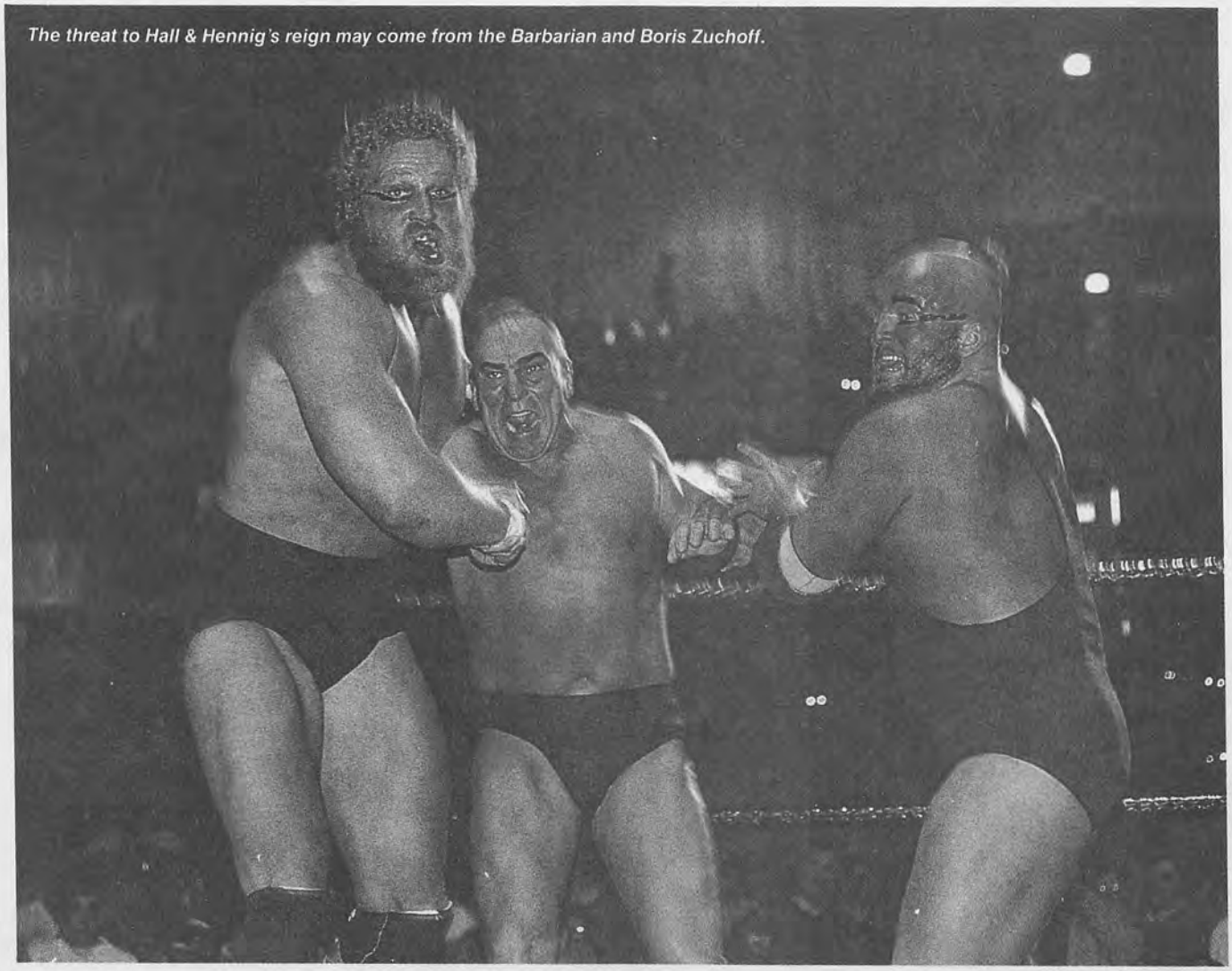
CURT HENNIG

Curt Hennig certainly has his work cut out for him. To work together with a partner like Scott Hall, he must be willing to be 'overshadowed.' Curt must bite the bullet and let the Press proclaim Scott. 'You know, everyone falls all over these guys with big, impressive arms," said Curt, 'Scott's a natural, but he doesn't have my experience or background. That's why we work together so well. I have the skill and Hall has the size. I don't have to out-muscle my opponents because I defeat all my ring foes with my superior skill."

The easy-going Curt Hennig has attributes any tag team partner would appreciate. He's a second-generation wrestler and knows everyone in the AWA on a first-name basis. A full-fledged main eventer, Curt is a threat to many of the established stars of the area. "My father gave me the best advice anyone could ever want. He told me, be kind to the people you meet on the way up, cause they're the same people you'll meet on the way down. I've always tried to be honest with my fans and with the other wrestlers." Before teaming with Scott Hall, Curt was very much in demand by the likes of Greg Gagne, Rick Martel and his own dad, Larry 'The Axe' Hennig.

Greg Gagne believes Curt Hennig and Scott Hall are a perfect tag team. "With Hall's size and strength, coupled with Curt's speed and experience, they're going right to the top. I'd like to go on the record as saying both men have the potential to unseat Stan 'The Man' Hansen. It's not hard to imagine, because Nick Bockwinkle and my father, Verne Gagne, were both able to hold the AWA world belt and also co-hold the tag team honors. I'd give Scott and Curt a 50-50 chance of doing it also."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The tag team of Hall & Hennig won the AWA tag team belts on January 18, in Albuquerque, NM. The titleholders Jimmy Garvin and Steve Regal could not hold off the steady assault, and took a brutal beating throughout the bout. The future for Curt and Scott looks very promising. There are few serious challengers out there. Their close rivals are the team of Boris Zuchoff and the Barbarian. Also, Sgt. Slaughter and Greg Gagne, the Irwins, or Brad Rheingans and Buck Zam Hofe. Expect Hall and Hennig to take very impressive individual stabs at Stan Hansen's championship.)



The threat to Hall & Hennig's reign may come from the Barbarian and Boris Zuchoff.

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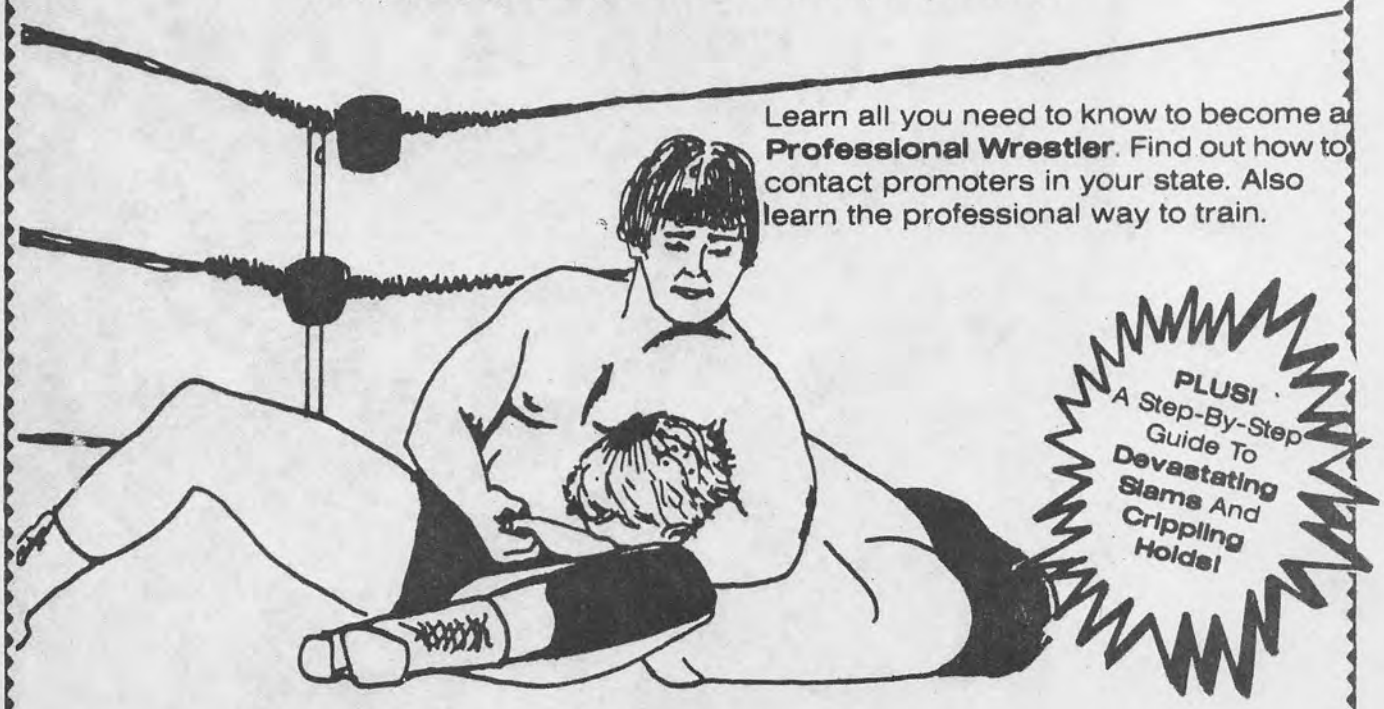

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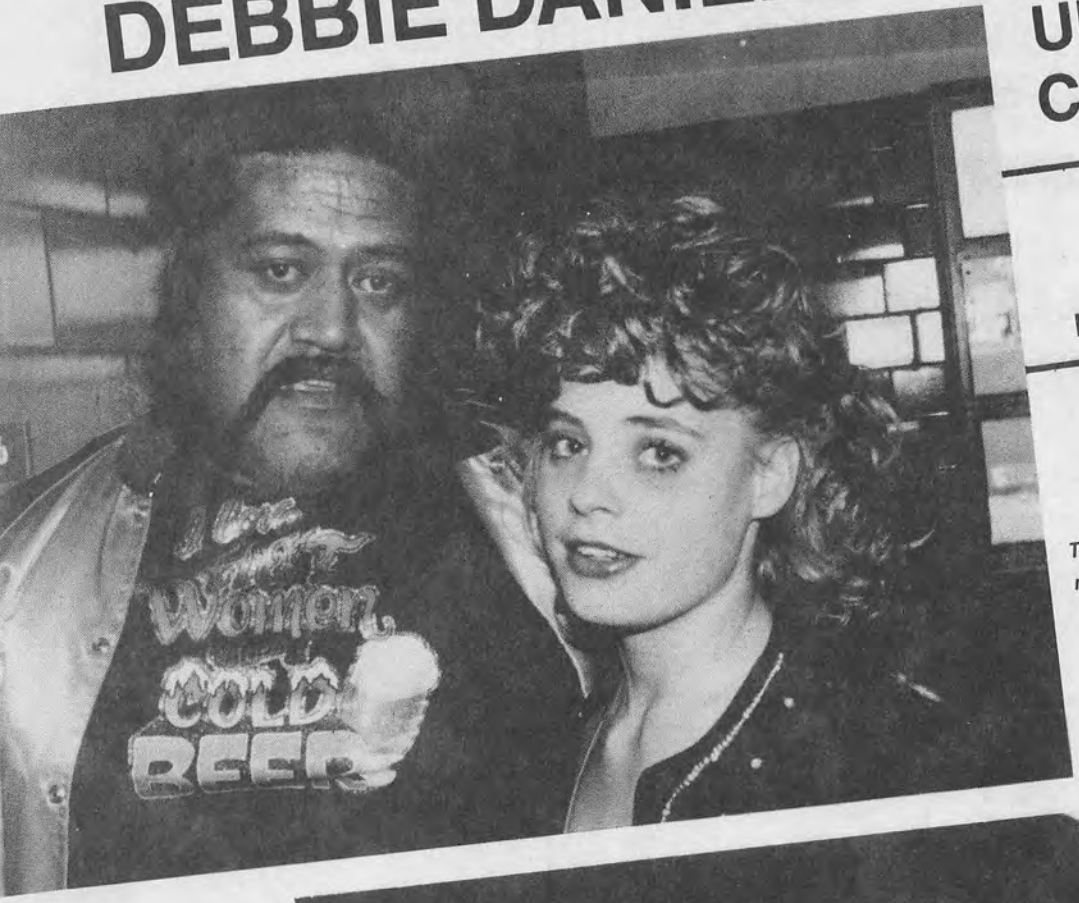
ROOKIE OF THE MONTH

DEBBIE DANIELS

UP AND COMING!

By Mike Bellew



The phenomenal Debbie Daniels and mentor Afa .

Hurricane Gloria vs. Debbie Daniels

The editors of WRESTLING EYE seldom miss on a prediction. In the February Issue, we told our readers: Dory Funk Jr. would soon be linking up with Brother Terry in the WWF. In the same issue, we reported the inside story on David Sammartino and his parting company with Dad and the WWF. In our April Issue, we picked the Midnight Express as Team of The Year; within months they won the NWA world tag team championship. In those same First Annual Awards, we selected Scott Hall as Rookie of The Year. As that magazine went to press, he and Curt Hennig already had the AWA team titles in hand. Not bad, eh? When WRESTLING EYE speaks....you'd better listen. Continuing this talent at picking winners, we predict the lady wrestler to watch is petite Debbie Daniels. This remarkable young lady is a star on the rise.

21-year-old. Debbie has been wrestling since November '85. She learned to wrestle with the likes of Afa Samoan, the Tonga Kid, Jimmy 'Superfly' Snuka and Liz Chase. "My ambition is to someday be the Ladies World Champion," said Miss Daniels. "I know with my determination and my ability to work hard, it won't be long before I get there. I feel that there are too many women in the business who don't belong here because of their deceiving tactics. I believe it's part of my job to see to it that they are put out of commission."

A native of Hartford, Ct., Debbie credits Afa and Jimmy Snuka for much of her early success. "I was given much support by them. They have taught me far more than I could ever learn in the squared circle."

There's no denying that Debbie Daniels is one pretty girl. But don't let that shapely figure fool you, she's a rough 'n' tough wrestler. Only 5'4" and a mere 115 lbs., she makes up for her lack of size with a wide variety of holds and throws. "I'd rather wrestle my opponent fair and square. Still, if she wants to pull hair and kick I'm not afraid to mix it up." This reporter had a chance to witness Debbie's talents in person when she tangled with Hurricane Gloria. The girls were fairly matched in the early going. At the mid-way mark, Debbie's speed began to turn the match in her favor. Hurricane Gloria wasn't going to go down without a fight. She lashed out with two solid dropkicks which might have severely injured another girl. However, Debbie came back and pinned Gloria with a flying bodypress.

"Although I never planned on becoming a professional wrestler, I've never regretted my decision to get into the business."

Debbie puts Gloria in a painful step-over toehold.

WRESTLING EYE

Daniels and her favorite magazine—WRESTLING EYE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Your magazine is great! I have every one so far. I just want to know if you could tell me what happened to Johnny Powers and what he is doing now? He is my all time favorite wrestler.

Thank You,
James Brayman
Troy, New York

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Johnny Powers is currently retired and living in Canada. He gave up the grunt-and-groan business after a series of brutal battles with the Sheik and Johnny Valentine.)

Dear WRESTLING EYE,
I just purchased your April issue and it's fantastic. After buying the March issue (my first WRESTLING EYE) I couldn't help but buy another one. Now, you've got a reader for life! I wrote this letter to comment on your Awards for 1985. I agree entirely with your selections for Lady Wrestler, Promoter of the Year, and Rookie of the Year. However, I can't agree with your choices of Wrestler, Tag Team, Manager, or Event of the Year.

For Wrestler of the Year, I would have chosen 'Nature Boy' Ric Flair. Tag Team of the Year should have gone to the Rock 'N' Roll Express. How could you have the Sawyers ahead of them? Jim Cornette is the man to choose for Manager of the Year, and for Event, SuperClash '85 romped all over Wrestlemania.

Thank you for your consistently great magazine.

Paul Brittian
Manchester, MO

Dear WRESTLING EYE,
I enjoy reading your magazine. I would like to see color pin-ups of the British Bulldogs, Tony Atlas and the pretty Wendi Richter. Could you please write an article on 'Mr. Wonderful' Paul Orndorff? My classmate Jill loves him. She would like to marry him.

Paul Sutera,
Long Island, NY

Dear WRESTLING EYE,
There is one other magazine that publishes the truth, but your's is fresh, exciting and great. I would like to see your magazine try to get more fan-oriented, with some regular columns and a regular contest. Mr. Vince McMahon, Jr., is a great man. But, I do not approve totally of the WWF. His denial of Bob Backlund and refusal to admit Lanny Poffo and Randy Savage are brothers are some of the few points I hope he corrects. The WWF is not a circus, but Mr. Vince has to get a 'hold' on this.

Keep up the great work! Ayes' have it!

Shelton Mitchell
Clawson, MIS

Dear Mr. Ort,
Let me first say that I truly enjoyed your magazine. In a past issue (March '86) you featured a story on the Fabulous Ones written by S.J. Williamson. It was a compendium of biographical and commentary information given by Steve Keirn and Stan Lane. I would like to see a story like that on my favorite tag team—the Rock 'N' Roll Express.

Sincerely,
Lori Nelson
Charlotte, NC

Dear WRESTLING EYE,
Your magazine is great, but could you please do more stories on Mr. Wonderful, Andre the Giant, the Junkyard Dog and Ricky Steamboat? I bought your April '86 issue and it was great.

Andy Ariz
Woodinville, WA

Dear Sirs,
I think your magazine is the best ever. You get the real truth with clear, unbiased, and probing insight and reporting on the important things that people need to know. One such example was 'THE WRESTLING FEDERATIONS IN A NUTSHELL' by Ed Garea. Some magazines have little real information and too much opinion. But, WRESTLING EYE tells it like it is. I'll soon get a subscription to your great magazine.

Victor Smith
Richmond, VA

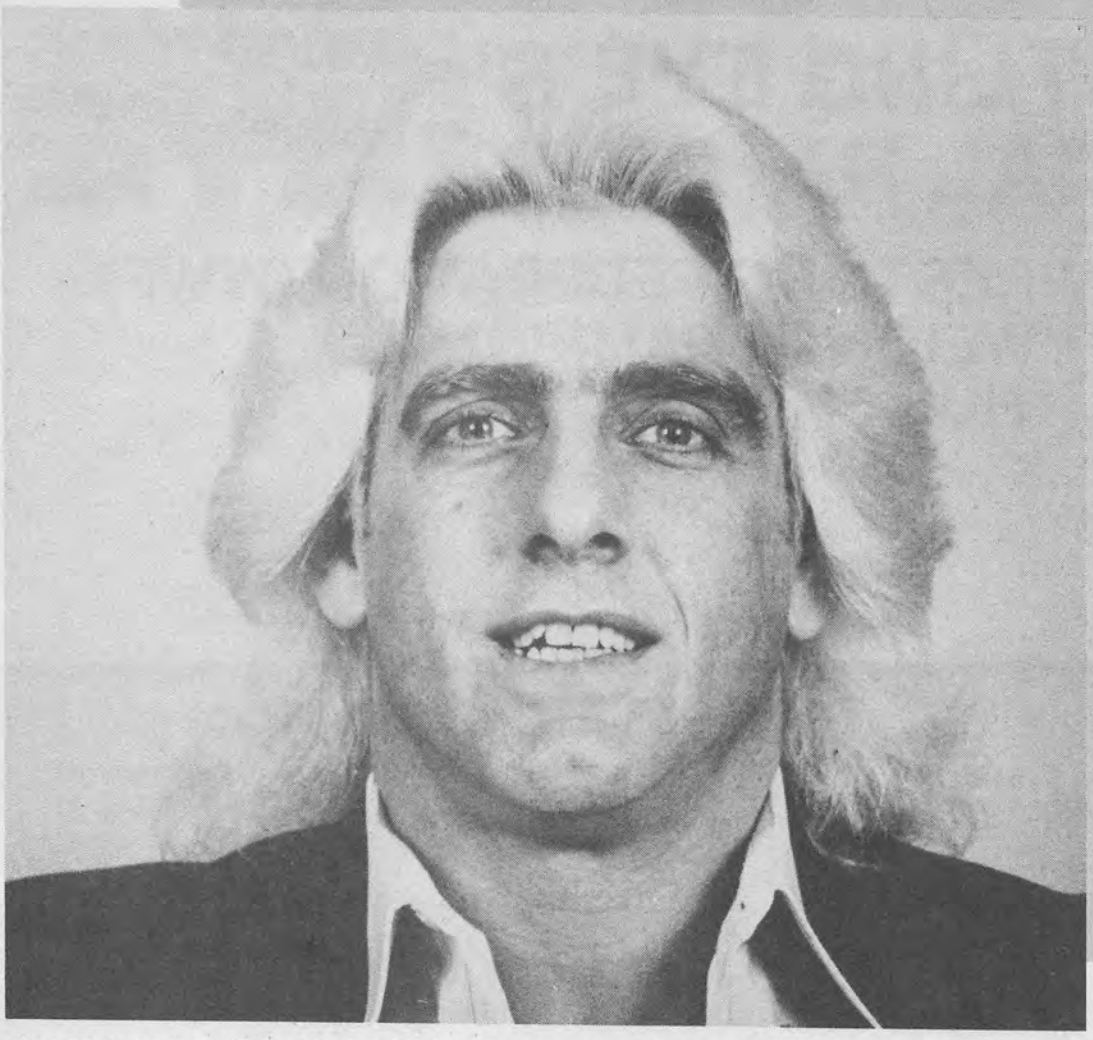
Dear WRESTLING EYE,
I've read all the other wrestling magazines, but they're not like yours. You report on women's wrestling, midget wrestling, rookie wrestlers and the AWA, WWF and NWA. I have yet to miss an issue of WRESTLING EYE.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!

Mario Rosario
Pawtucket, RI

Dear WRESTLING EYE,
I think your magazine is the greatest. I really like your 'ONE ON ONE' column on Ox Baker. I think he's a great wrestler, after he's been around for almost 20 years terrorizing the wrestling world. I especially like your OUT OF THE PAST column every month on the stars of yesterday. Your magazine is really worth the price, because you have stories on the stars of yesterday, today and new stars on the horizon. I missed your Premier Issue, I bet it was great

Thank You,
Richard Dixon
Woodhaven, MI



Was Ric Flair actually WRESTLER OF THE YEAR? Many readers felt our section on Hulk Hogan was incorrect.

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I must say your magazine is far ahead of the rest. After reading your magazine, I enjoy the stories about the wrestlers and how they got their starts. You give the fans a look at their heroes as real people. Wrestling is almost like the old western movies. You can cheer for the good and boo the bad. But they're all human. I have spoken with Greg Valentine for a short time and we talked like two grown people. Ask him about his younger brother (Dale). He wrestled in Texas.

Enclosed you will find my check for $24.00

James Lawson
Galax, VA

P.S. Could you ask some of the wrestlers about the deaths by heart attacks? Are they being pushed too hard, or aren't they in shape to handle it?

WRESTLING EYE

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ATT: EDITOR

WRESTLING EYE'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION (WWF) HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION— HULK HOGAN

Tag Team Champions:
The British Bulldogs

Contenders
1. King Kong Bundy
2. Roddy Piper
3. Randy Savage
4. Paul Orndorff
5. Greg Valentine
6. Ricky Steamboat
7. Magnificent Muraco
8. Hillbilly Jim
9. Junkyard Dog
10. Brutus Beefcake

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION (AWA) HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION— STAN HANSEN

Tag Team Champions:
Scott Hall and Curt Hennig

Contenders
1. Nick Bockwinkel
2. Scott Hall
3. Greg Gagne
4. Jerry Blackwell
5. Sgt. Slaughter
6. Curt Hennig
7. Larry Zbyszko
8. Brad Rheingans
9. Barbarian
10. Boris Zuchoff

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE (NWA) HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION—RIC FLAIR

Tag Team Champions:
Midnight Express

Contenders
1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Sam Houston
3. Tully Blanchard
4. Magnum T.A.
5. Ronnie Garvin
6. Jimmy Garvin
7. Nikita Koloff
8. Jimmy Valiant
9. Assassin #1
10. Arn Anderson

WOMEN'S RATINGS WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION (WWF) WORLD'S CHAMPION— FABULOUS MOOLAH

Tag Team Champions:
Velvet McIntyre and
Desiree Petersen

Contenders
1. Candi Divine (AWA Champ)
2. Desiree Petersen
3. Sheri Martel
4. Liz Chase
5. Debbie Combs (NWA champ)
6. Wendi Richter
7. Le Lani Kai
8. Judy Martin
9. Susan Green
10. Angel Vachon

Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff Says—

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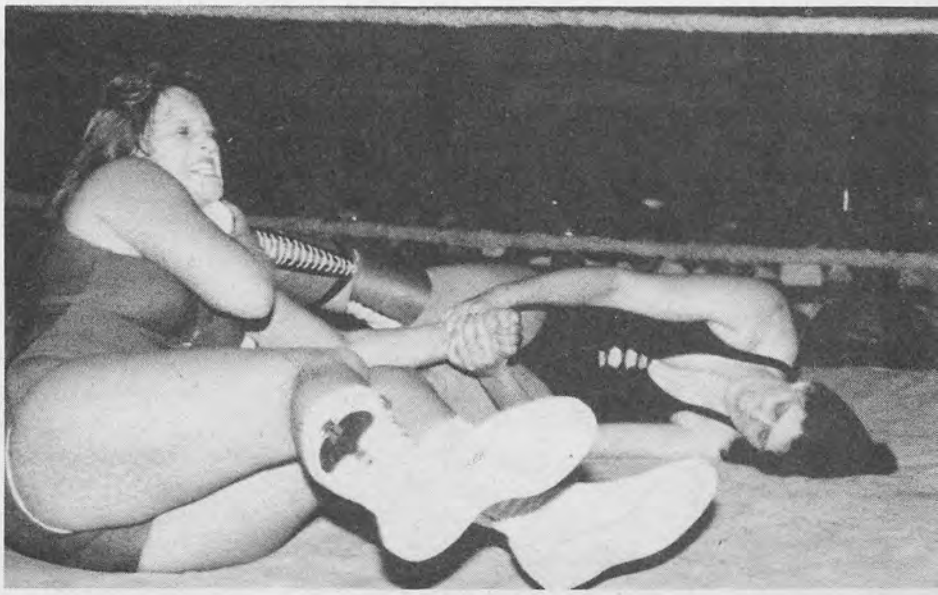
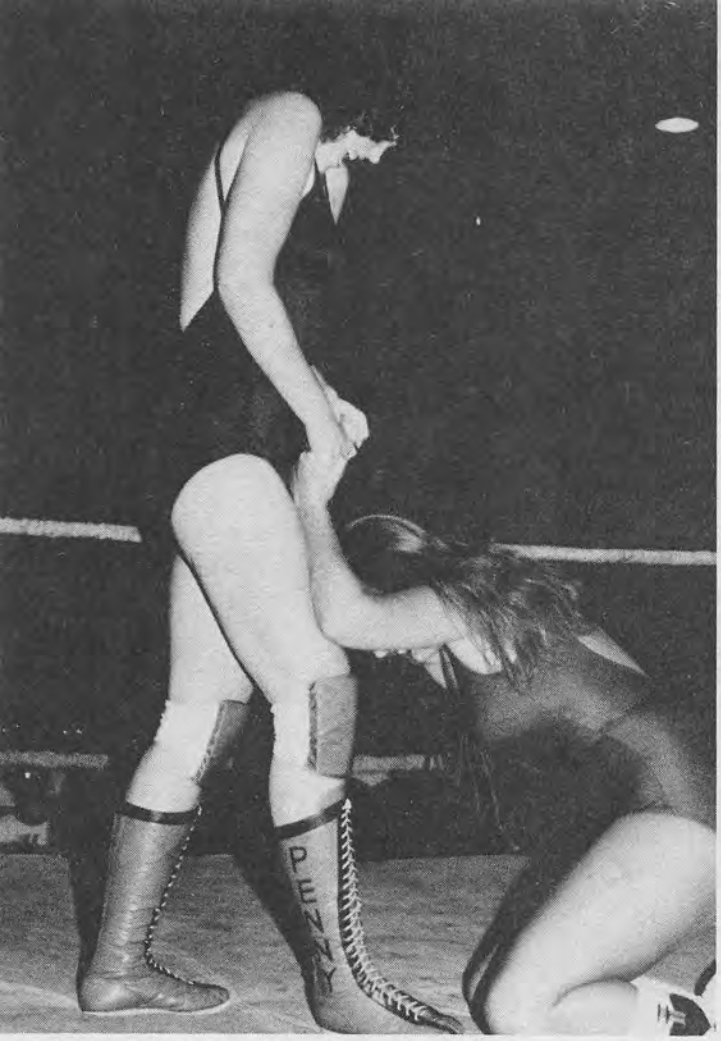
Peggy Lee works on the legs of NWA champ Debbie Combs.



Any match between Lisa Salvati (left) and Penny Mitchell is a grueling affair.



This time, Penny Mitchell comes out on top,

Mat star Despina Montogas expects a weight lifting trophy. Montogas is one of the strongest women wrestlers around.

Bonita Thundercloud (standing) vs. Lisa Darnell

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